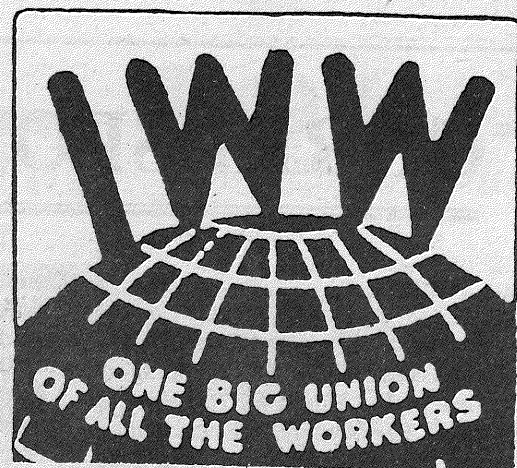


# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

*Industrial Workers of the World*



VOLUME 86, NUMBER 2, WH 1509

FEBRUARY 1989

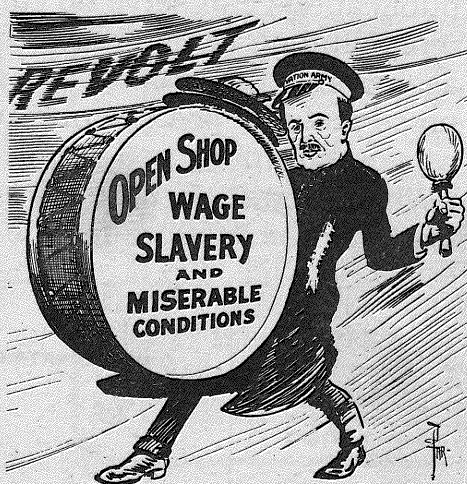
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## GREENPEACE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

On tuesday, January 3, seven Seattle Wobs from the Greenpeace Workers Organizing Committee began the new year with a visit to the Seattle headquarters of Greenpeace NW. The purpose of the visit was to show Greenpeace that the struggle against their anti-labor and undemocratic practices has broadened and will continue. Greenpeace NW Development Director Bill Keller was presented with over one-thousand signatures supporting the workers fired last summer while attempting to organize an IWW job branch in the Greenpeace NW phone bank. These signatures from thirty states and two Canadian provinces demonstrate a broad base of support across North America. Keller was also given a copy of an "Open Letter to Greenpeace" presenting the current position of the Greenpeace Workers' Organizing Committee.

Though publicity efforts to date have focused exclusively on North America, support is beginning to come from European labor and environmental movements. Letters of support have come from the Direct Action Movement (the British section of the International Workers Association) and from the editor of "Econews", the UK Green Party's newspaper. On November 14, 1988 members of the London Greenpeace Group (an anti-authoritarian environmental group independent of the official Greenpeace) leafletted on behalf of the fired Seattle Wobs in front of the London headquarters of Greenpeace, UK. In Copenhagen, Denmark recently a member of ASO (the Danish section of the International Workers Association) contacted Seattle Wobs requesting information for a radio program he was doing about Greenpeace on a Copenhagen community radio station.

Current Greenpeace organizing efforts are part of a broader Progressive Non-Profit Organizing Drive. Portland Wobs have led the way with recent NLRB election victories at the Portland offices of Oregon Sane and Oregon Fair Share. Contacts are continuing to be made with current and past Greenpeace workers and a network is being established amongst Greenpeace dissidents internationally. The struggle with Greenpeace management has just begun.



### DATES SET FOR 1989 N.E. REGIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR UNION WOMEN

This year's summer school for union women in the northeast region of the U.S. has been scheduled for July 23-28, 1989 at the University of Maine in Orano, Maine.

The school is open to all union women who want to strengthen their skills to become more active in their labor organizations. Scholarship funds are available for those who need financial aid to meet the fee of \$355 (which includes room, board and materials).

For a detailed brochure, childcare arrangements, scholarship forms, and more information, contact: Wanda Ingham, Bureau of Labor Education, University of Maine, Maintech Center, 16 Godfrey Drive, Orano, Maine 04473.

Rochelle Semel.

### One Small Baby in One Big Union

Another junior Wobbly arrived on the planet — more specifically, Bayshore New York at 4:36 pm on January 18, 1989. The parents are the Wobbly couple, FW's Louis Poulos and Anna Marie Venezia, both members of the NY General Membership Branch of the IWW. They are naming the baby Paul after his uncle, Paul Poulos. Many congrats ...

### REBEL VOICES

The quarterly magazine of news, comics, poetry, and whatnot...propaganda clearly marked...now in a bold new format...\$1.25/sample or \$3.50 year (Canada \$4.50).

New York IWW

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THE NY-IWW MAGAZINE

## UFCW PICKETS JOIN IWW IN BELLINGHAM

### Local Wobs Shake Off Cobwebs

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (WNS) --The IWW group here in the northwest corner of the state awoke with a start in late December after a three-year snooze. Four people employed as full-time informational pickets for UFCW Local 44 (United Food and Commercial Workers) have joined the IWW.

Over the past eight months, these fellow workers have picketed non-union stores in nearby Lynden on behalf of the UFCW. They have been physically and verbally assaulted by store managers. They were followed home after work in an effort to intimidate them. They even won a court injunction barring store managers from approaching them. They stuck with their jobs, walking and talking in the northwest rains, and managed to open the door at their first target -- employees at the SuperValue store joined the UFCW last fall.

These picketers believed what they stood for -- all workers are better off when they organize. However, their union employer apparently disagreed, as Local 44 officers denied the picketers permission to attend UFCW meetings. The picketers wanted to be a formal part of the labor movement. Taking their own advice, they organized, only into the IWW. They chose our union because they liked our ideals, we encouraged them to do so, and our dues are very low.

Shortly after taking out IWW cards, they had a more tangible cause. John and Stefan were "laid-off" for having long hair. Of course, it was fine to be shaggy earlier, in the heat of the campaign at the SuperValue. All the picketers will soon be back to work, but only because the hairier ones decided that a "Wob on the job is worth ten on the street" and got shorn. The issue of worker control remains a touchy one, however, there's dissent between the Local 44 officers and the picketers over just when the new dress code went into effect. These new Bellingham Wobs have also made contact with other UFCW informational pickets in the Puget Sound region. Those in Tacoma have reportedly joined another union.

Inspired by the new members, Bellingham Wobs turned out for the first meeting in some time on January 12. The small knot of dedicated IWW's from the Fairhaven Flour Mill and at-large members met with the new members employed by the UFCW. Several lapsed members came and took out new

cards. Fellow workers from Vancouver, B.C. (60 miles north) and Tacoma (120 miles south) attended to add spice and a real sense of solidarity. Bellingham membership has suddenly doubled, more than enough to renew our status as a functioning General Membership Branch. There are three delegates and plans for regular meetings. The potential for further organizing and more members is high in the rain country.

Dave Tucker.

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### INDUSTRIAL WORKER

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# CORRESPONDENCE

Fellow Workers,

I take strong exception to "Shop Rat"'s letter in the December *IW* (responding to my review of *The Massachusetts Miracle* in October). For openers, it seems to me that there are solid reasons for rank-and-file unionists to read books documenting how the banks and corporations are taking advantage of economic hard times to further enrich themselves from our tax dollars, and the role of "liberal" Democratic Party politicians in lading

*It should be understood by members and others who read this paper that it is the policy of the IWW to designate as official any articles which have the regular official sanction. Anything not so designated is not official.--All other matter contained herein is the mere personal expression of the individual or individuals writing or editing the same.*

## SUBMISSIONS POLICY

The deadline for copy for each edition is the fifteenth of the month. Important articles arriving after that date, but before we go to press, will be considered for inclusion in that issue, but we cannot guarantee their timely publication after deadline.

All copy should be typed and lines double spaced with 1 inch margins all around.

We encourage letters to the editors in response to articles appearing in the *Industrial Worker*. We only ask that they be kept brief and to the point and avoid personal invective.

The editorial collective tries to answer correspondence but a lack of time and person power (we do this after our regular working hours) prohibit us from answering all who write. We ask for your patience. Submit your letters and articles early!

The Editors

## Industrial Worker

ONE UNION ONE LABEL  
ONE ENEMY



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Correspondents

Stan Anderson, Seattle; Phil Harris, Atlanta; Denny Mealy, Austin; Richard Hill & Gary Cox, Denver; Rochelle Semel, Fly Creek; Paul Poulos & David Zatz, New York.

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Jeff "Bigfoot" Ditz

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out the booty to the rich while simultaneously attacking poor and working people.

"Shop Rat" seems to feel that only those who work behind machines are genuine workers, while those such as myself who do piecework for the boss press are "sold out liberal intellectuals." But from the beginning, the IWW has sought to organize all workers into one big union, whether we work in the factories or behind VDT's. As a Wobbly for the past ten years, I have worked jobs ranging from dishwashing to typesetting to book reviewing. Like most of my fellow workers I must work for a living, and do not have the luxury of only working jobs that add to society's real wealth. (If it makes "Shop Rat" feel any better, by the way, I work another part-time job recycling cans and newspapers.)

Finally, I did not say that labor-oriented publishers are well off. I did say some charge bloated prices --I was thinking, in particular, of Charles Kerr and Black Rose Books. Radical publishers are certainly handicapped by rising costs, the refusal of chain bookstores to carry their books, etc. Yet how many working stiff's can afford the stiff pricetags --two to three times what most publishers charge-- on Kerr and Black Rose titles?

I reviewed *The Massachusetts Miracle* for the *IW* for two reasons --to show that Dukakis was running under false colors and to show, using evidence from the bosses themselves, just who has benefitted from the much-touted economic recovery. Like I said, I don't recommend buying it, but its worth taking a look at.

For a world without bosses,

JB, X331117

## MORE ON WSO CONFERENCE

Dear IW,

I agree with much of Lowell May's criticism of the Conference on Workers' Self-Organization (January *Industrial Worker*). The issue of the "revolutionary potential of the working class" was hardly raised at the conference, as Lowell points out. The same is true of the issue of whether workers should be trying to build mass actions and new associations independent of the bureaucratized unions of the AFL-CIO type or try to reform the latter. Another problem with the conference was that the main format had individuals who know a lot about a particular topic giving a major presentation with only a small question period at the end. This creates a division between "experts" and listeners that doesn't lend itself to substantial dialogue.

However, Lowell makes one comment that has me puzzled. Lowell says that the viewpoints expressed by participants fell into roughly two categories: 1) "gradualists" who simply think of empowerment/self-organization of workers, regardless of context, versus (2) "revolutionaries" who see self-organization as "the development of mass actions and organizations independent of unions and orthodox (?) parties." What I find particularly puzzling is his statement that those who fell into the first camp were "mostly from the ranks of the anarchists" while the "marxist-oriented" crowd fell into the second category.

Now, I was one of the speakers at this conference. My talk on Italy in 1920 was directly concerned with the issues of workers revolution and organization independent of the bureaucratic unions, which Lowell (rightly) considers important. Indeed, I was one of the few people to directly raise these issues--as Lowell personally pointed out to me at the time.

A major point of my discussion was to argue for the impossibility of

# EDITORIAL

## Censorship!

Neither the IWW nor the *Industrial Worker* engage in or promote anti-social behavior; the ideas and concepts we express, are a statement of concern toward the betterment of the conditions which drive men to rob, rape, and murder; the cycles of want and hunger, being a *havenot* in a world obsessed with acquiring possessions. Sensory deprivation and enforced isolation do not prepare an individual to reenter society, which all convicts do when their sentences run out.

The concepts of individual and group responsibility, social awareness and participation put forth in the *Industrial Worker* and other union publications point only to a fairer, more equal environment and restricting the dissemination of these publications can serve no constructive purpose, either in the rehabilitation of the individual or in reintroducing him, once again, into the real world. It impinges free speech, a free press and any positive pursuit in the exchange of ideas. It is censorship, pure and simple.

When even thought itself is no longer permitted in prisons; what can be in store for the rest of society?



RICHARD F. CELESTE  
GOVERNOR

VILHELMO VANLENHO  
RR3 COOKSHIRE  
QC JOB IMO  
CANADA

Dear Mr. Vanlenho:

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 28, 1988, concerning the I.W.W. Newspaper and I.W.W. Delegate Cards. After reviewing your letter, I am submitting the following information to you.

In response to your question as to why inmates in J-1 Level III are not permitted to receive your newspaper, The *Industrial Worker*, is due to the fact that these inmates are classed pursuant to Administrative Rules and Regulations as Maximum Security Control inmates. Also pursuant to this facility's policy as amended July 21, 1988, all inmates in Local Control or Level III status are only permitted to receive daily type newspapers. They are not permitted to receive magazines or weekly/monthly type publications. This also includes catalogs, directories, or advertising brochures. This would also apply to I.W.W. Delegate Cards.

It should be pointed out that it is the responsibility of those inmates placed in this status due to their behavior adjustment problems, that they are to notify all parties with whom they correspond with what they may or may not have while in this status. Also they should take steps to have subscriptions put on hold or cancel the balance of their subscriptions with a refund for the remainder of said subscription. The final option is to make disposition and have said contraband items returned to the sender, or someone on their approved visiting list and or to be turned over to the Managing Officer to be handled in accordance with Administrative Rules and Regulations. All inmates who have been placed in Level III and Local Control Status have been informed as to these policies.

We do permit your publication to be received by inmates in general population cell blocks. I assure you that we are not withholding the I.W.W. publication for any other reason. Once those inmates are returned back into general population status, they may receive your publication or any other weekly/monthly publication, and enjoy the same privileges that all general population inmates receive on an equal treatment basis.

I trust this information will answer your questions as well as ease your mind, that we are not denying access of your publication into this facility.

Cordially:

SOUTHERN OHIO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

*Sgt. C. Schramm*  
Sergeant C.H. Schramm,  
Mail & Visiting Supervisor

JFH:oo  
xc: T.L. MOTTIS  
C.H. TACKETT  
file/

transforming bureaucratized unions into organs of revolution--as shown by the anti-revolutionary role of the Socialist CGL (General Confederation of Labor) in the revolutionary crisis of September, 1920. I argued that the institutionalized, bureaucratic nature of the CGL made it almost inevitable that the growing movement for workers' control among Italian workers after World War I would find expression in new organizations, of a more grassroots character, which arose independently of the CGL--the independent shop stewards councils in Turin and the mushrooming growth of the Italian Syndicalist Union (USI) outside Turin.

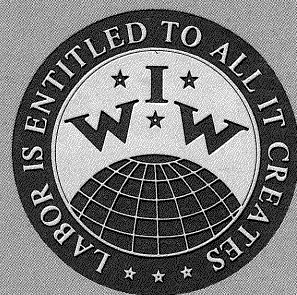
So, I guess my talk would fall into the "revolutionary" camp--those who emphasize "the development of mass workers actions and organizations

independent of bureaucratic trade unions and parties." Yet, I was one of the few speakers identified with an explicitly anarchist organization (Workers Solidarity Alliance). So, I am puzzled. Lowell, can you explain yourself, please? Nonetheless, I don't mean to suggest that people who call themselves "anarchists" are necessarily always "more correct" than people who call themselves "marxists". I'm not sure these labels have a clear enough meaning nowadays to lean on, and, in any case, I think we need to judge the contributions that people make to the movement on their own merits. Identification with this or that ideological label is no guarantee wisdom, alas.

Also, I would like to mention that I was elected to the Planning Committee for the



# News and Views from Canada



## TAKING YOUR POLITICS TO WORK

### Nine Reasons Why "Progressive" People Should Unionize With The IWW

If you already see yourself as a participant in a social change movement where people are put before profit, then this article was written for you.

People like yourself generally wind up in the workplaces where few others share our views or are willing to "rock the boat." Those lucky enough to find work in useful social services are often exploited because their being politically loyal is seen as part of the job, not wanting to threaten the operation of the project by protesting, instead these people threaten the project by not exposing problems, while their own ability to perform their job is impaired by stress and bad morale, which in turn distorts the attitudes and goals of the whole project.

Then there are those who are in a cooperative workplace, where the co-op is trying to maintain their principles while in competition with organizations whose hierarchy and ruthlessness makes them natural in the capitalist system. It is a hard thing to resist replicating the structures of the boss class; often this is disguised by alluding to the need for "expertise" or unshakable faith in an "old guard."

The IWW seeks to "build the new society in the shell of the old." This means that we want out present communities operated in a manner reflecting our decentralized, democratic, and cooperative ideals NOW rather than "after the revolution." Our ability to defend ourselves, and extend solidarity to others, is greatly increased when we pool the skills and resources found in our workplaces. It is through exactly this sort of solidarity that many cooperatives are sustained with their ideals intact.

The IWW exists to organize the unorganized; to bring the power of the union to those who need it the most. This article intends to build a base of support within an already powerful and semi-class conscious "alternative community"; thus forming the backbone for organizing drives in the far more brutal conditions outside this community.

To explain why the IWW is a realistic option for the progressive community, we have tried to answer some of the most commonly asked questions.

#### Innoculates Against Bosses

My workplace is run cooperatively; there are no bosses, so why should we unionize?

Many cooperative ventures begin with great ideals and equality between members, but sudden growth or crisis gives birth to an employing class which, though often temporary by intention, hardens with time into a permanent executive. Often this power imbalance is hardly recognizable, with only subtle indications of a chain-of-command. Even the concept that the friend you work with, maybe even party with, is your B.O.S.S. is only vaguely acknowledged.

Then something bad happens. Where before the whole membership would struggle with the problem and make a collective decision, now the membership is gathered as an advisory body to those with the real power. Or, worse, they are not gathered at all.

Clearly, when the power of hiring and firing moves into the hands of an executive (which is the definition of Employing Class), this signals the end of worker control, collectivity, and the companionship of equals.

With the IWW as your union, you are inoculating yourselves against the establishment of a boss class. Where other unions are created to confront capital, the IWW moves beyond confrontation to the seizure of workplace control (which is what a co-op is supposed to be) and the defense of these gains. We not only treat the illness, we seek to prevent it from ever occurring.

This doesn't magically occur without your help. The role of the union is largely to

among others of our class, very little fertile can be found for rationalizing the accumulation of conspicuous wealth.

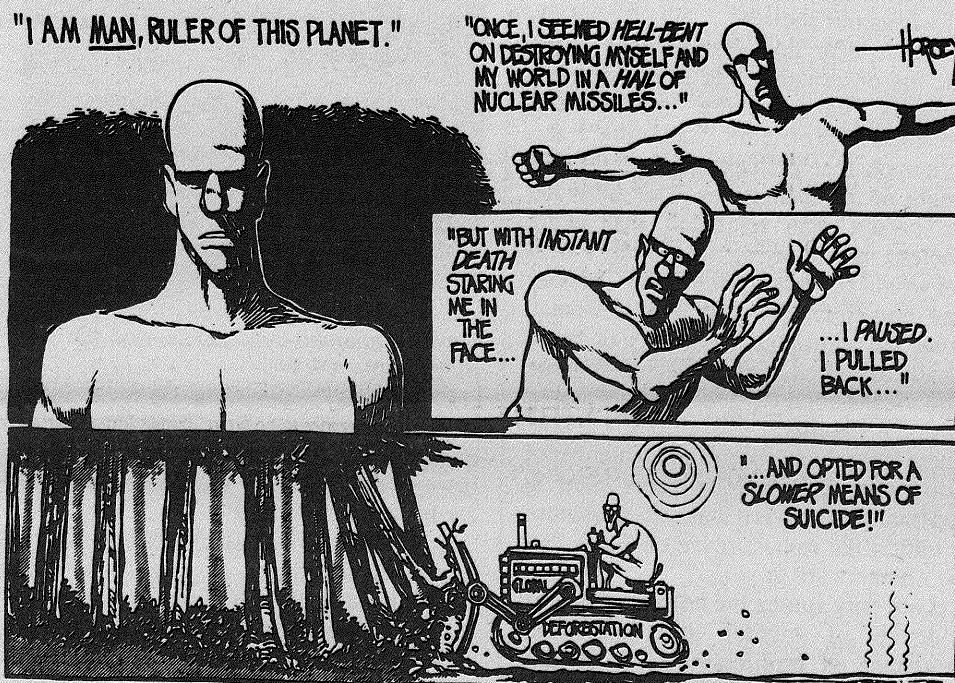
All this is not to say that Wobblies are required to remain impoverished and illhoused. Contrary to the much Leftoid romanticism, the Working Class has every right to long for the good things in life, like beautiful clothes and nice houses to raise kids. The IWW sees no reason to celebrate the spirit-breaking lifestyle of poor wage-

industry and are made by exploited labour while the steaks come from factory farmed animals living miserable lives stuffed antibiotics and grain that could have fed starving humans. This redefinition of progress at the core of IWW thinking: if people have control of their workplaces, then why would they decide to produce something which they have been convinced is bad for them? You can tell ammunition factory workers that their creativity results in murder, but their only ethical option is to quit and be replaced from a huge pool of desperate poor. If the various workplaces are run by their members, ethical decisions are possible, not only about what is made, but about whether the workplace itself is progress (eg. are factories a good thing?).

One particularly good example of this can be found in Australia. In 1971, the Builders' Labourers Union imposed the first "Green Ban" when it refused to destroy a forest for a new development. In following years, construction workers refused to build a power station which environmentalists estimated would raise the city's pollution by 20%, refused to transport mining equipment to an unspoiled island and refused to demolish a working class neighborhood to build a freeway, among other projects. The labourers imposed more than 40 bans involving an estimated \$4-billion worth of work, each after public meetings where the union asked local residents what they thought of the proposed projects.

Employers, "business unionists" and the federal government eventually crushed the labourers, but the example was already set: in 1976, unions banned the mining, handling and export of uranium; in 1977, a national strike succeeded a train guard who was fired for stopping a uranium shipment;

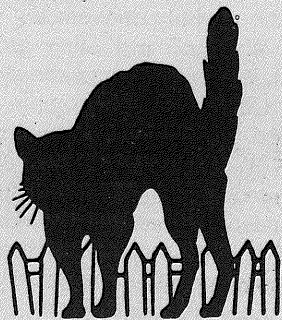
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provide a framework for activists to focus on power inequalities in the workplace. In this union context, members develop an effective early warning system sensitive to any threats to the structure and spirit of the cooperative. This is accomplished through literature, discussions and presentations, but the most concrete lesson is participation in the union itself; for over eighty years and through the most oppressive conditions, the IWW has maintained its democratic structure and egalitarian spirit. It is a heritage you can be proud to claim and defend.

slaves; we want bread, but we want roses, too.

Individually, Wobs have different definitions of the "good things in life"; where one Wob may long for a Yamaha 350 or a nice big steak, another Wob might view such things with horror, arguing that motorbikes cause pollution, support the oil



#### Yuppification and Co-option

I'm one of many "political" people working on a socially useful project; I hardly think we're about to sell-out.

This question is very similar to the one before it, and so is the response. Where the first question concerned the destruction of a project's collectivity, now we are dealing with the destruction of its ideals.

The nature and goals of the IWW serve to impede yuppification in a number of ways. Foremost among these are union projects involving material aid to the others in our class who are in a jam, such as homeless people or workers on a picket line. By constantly stressing the need for solidarity

### Why You Should Join The IWW

Because people like you and I who work are the driving force of the world economy. Only because you pump gas, punch cash, fry burgers, sell shoes, drive taxis, or whatever it is you do, the world moves. Things get done, people get their groceries and their other necessities. Without all of us workers none of this would happen. So really it is we, the combined individual workers in every industry, who create and maintain civilization and its conditions (the good and the bad).

Because you and I, and our friends and neighbors, create the conditions in which we all must live, we need an organization which will enable us to communicate and to make decisions together, and to exert some control over the nature of the work we do. For example, you personally may not wish to harm the environment, yet you may be forced by economic necessity to work in an industry which produces toxic wastes. If, as workers, we all stand together, all for one and one for all, then we can say, "NO. We refuse to do work that produces toxic waste, and you can't hire anyone who will be willing to do this work because we are all united about this; however, we will help alter the process and the technology so that toxic effects no longer result, and then we will work again."

There are many ways that a working people's organization can be useful--that is, provided it is a fully democratic and grass-roots organization like the IWW. At the shop floor or job site, wherever you do what you do, IWW provides a forum for discussion among your co-workers, where you can talk about the policies of management. You can decide as a group to make demands on management. This lets management know where the workers stand on issues. As a united group you can also back up your demands with direct action on the job.

It does not matter if you are a career worker or if you're only washing dishes part-time to get through school, or if you're staying home to raise a family, or if you carve totem poles--whatever you do, you are a part of what makes the whole human society function, and without your help, society can't function.

It is important that each of us has a voice in deciding what the functions of society should be, and the directions in which we wish to go as a society.

And those are just a few of the reasons why you should join the Industrial Workers of the World.





### WELCOME TO THE INHOGURAL BALL

So twenty-five million dollars of the Freedomland working stiff's withholding taxes were spent on the wingding that officially installed Freedomland's new Top Banana into his official position. Shall it be said that never before has so much been spent on so little?!

It would not be so hard to think of better ways to spend a husky wad like twenty-five million smackers. When you think of the army of homeless people who are wintering it out in the streets, such extravagance reeks of obscenity. When one rides through the city streets and sees so many empty edifices just waiting for the right real estate killing, the stench of obscenity becomes even more overpowering.

If the good custodians of the nibble on our paychecks could not see fit to fork over the cost of compensating the owners for all these vacant buildings, they could at least exert the right of eminent domain in the interests of protecting the welfare of their less fortunate fellow citizens. Just the price of whore-d'oeuvres, horsed-overs, or whatever you call them, could have insulated these empty buildings against the elements. The high-priced entertainers could have been prevailed upon, in the sense of patriotic duty and brotherly love to brighten the plight of the homeless for a more modest bite of the Freedomlander's withholding taxes.

How many of these homeless could have enjoyed some scraps from the banquet tables if only the born-again redneck and his preppie sidekick would have refused to be the recipients of such unwarranted extravagance?

Yes indeed, fellow denizens of Freedomland, you have exercised your democratic right of franchise to select who is going to be your top banana for the next four years but have you ever stopped to wonder why you have not been asked how much of your withholding taxes should be squandered on his inaugural wingding? Need you wonder any further why the cost of living does not distress him and his ilk as much as it does you and how your exercise of franchise stops considerably short of there? Isn't it amazing how much can be spent on so little?

### IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU CRAZY

Meanwhile the ranks of the homeless

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continue to grow as even the more comfortable areas of your large metropolitan centers begin to resemble Skid Road. The old saw, "The poor shall always be with us" has been embraced by the smug and comfortable and, of course, there have always been a certain number of homeless indigents habituating the Skid Road sections of the larger cities. Whereas the classic tramp population of yore was overwhelmingly male, we now have been witnessing a growing number of "bag ladies" and they are not all of the geritol set. When one can see a growing number of women hitting the skids, one has to come to the uncomfortable conclusion that all is not well within our society.

Someone near and dear to your scribe made the observation that these homeless obviously have severe mental and emotional problems, leaving the implication that perhaps their plight was brought on by themselves. This near and dear person was reminded that being homeless, not knowing where one's next meal would be coming from and if, besides being homeless, one was also a woman having the additional possibility of being sexually assaulted, such preoccupations are by no means conducive to one's mental or emotional stability.

There have always been a small number of emotionally disturbed indigents even in good times but how is it that here in what we are told is the richest place on Earth that their numbers are growing?

It is not only among the homeless that the incidence of mental and emotional disturbance is proliferating. As of this writing the denizens of Freedomland have been shocked by the wanton shooting of school children within the comfort of their own playground. The killer was fond of dressing in army fatigues lettered with patriotic slogans and the children he fired into happened to be Asiatic and other minorities; but, having killed himself, there is no way of knowing what sort of jingoistic mentality he had, from whence and how he obtained his weaponry, or if he was an enthusiastic supporter of the National Rifle Association.

### NO FUTURE?

While in the past few years the headlines have divulged a number of occasions when someone with firepower ran amok and caused the untimely demise of innocents, there has arisen the need to assure school children that, percentage-wise, such occurrences, like plane crashes, are still rare. What do these assurers say to those who have lived through such an ordeal or know someone who has? Perhaps one can tell these youngsters whose sense of security is being badly shaken that in other parts of the world, children do not even have the assurance that they will live to grow to adulthood. Someone near and dear to me lived that very doubt during the Second World War when her homeland went through two invasions and two liberations.

In other parts of the world the uncertainty of living to adulthood has long been a bitter reality for millions of children. Ironically such uncertainties are manifesting themselves into the lives of Freedomland's innocents and the uncertainties will continue to be a growing factor in all our lives as long as too many decisions affecting too many people continue to be made by far too few.

C. C. Redcloud

## Carlo Tresca and the IWW

### Book Review

Dorothy Gallagher's biography *All the Right Enemies*, Rutgers University, merits the highest praise for fusing the career of the almost forgotten anarcho-syndicalist Carlo Tresca with the great class struggles during the first half the 20th century, in which the IWW played so great a part. Any discussion of Tresca's relations with the IWW must emphasize the close connection



between anarcho-syndicalism and the ideology of the IWW.

In his classic analysis, the IWW: A Study in American Synicalism Paul Brissenden quotes from an editorial in the June 1910 issue of the *Industrial Worker* to substantiate his conviction that:

...all the main ideas of modern revolutionary unionism as

exhibited in the IWW may be found in the old International

Workingmen's Association (IWMA) founded 1864.

The editorial declares that:

...many items in the program originally drafted by the famous anar-chist Michael Bakunin for the International in 1868 were

very distinctly similar to the 20th century slogans of the IWW..

The Preamble of the IWW is distinctly anarcho-syndicalist in tone. The revolutionary concepts of class-struggle, direct economic action, local autonomy, workers' NOT STATE OR CAPITALIST—self-organization and self management of industry, solidarity, are all deeply rooted in American labor traditions.. Important sections of the wobbly movement; Marine Transport Workers' and other groupings were most receptive to anarcho-syndicalism. The Chilean administration of the IWW joined the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers Association. although the 1934 referendum to join the IWMA was later rescinded by another referendum, the IWW still has the most friendly relations with the anarcho-syndicalist labor organizations in Latin America, Spain, Portugal, other European countries, Australia, and other lands. To this day the IWW is constantly demonstrating its solidarity with the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist CNT and members of unions affiliated to the IWMA are automatically accepted as members of the IWW and vice-versa in a reciprocal agreement.

Tresca first escaped to Switzerland to avoid persecution as a "subversive" and emigrated to the United States in 1904.. In Italy Tresca edited the Socialist Party journal *Il Germe* (The Seed). He became an anarcho syndicalist in 1912-eight years later. He left the Socialist Party because he detested ballot box socialism. During the IWW Hotel Workers strike the socialist leader Jacob Panken urged the workers to register

their grievances at the ballot box. A dispatch to the New York Times reports that Tresca got up on a chair and bellowed: "What is this, a lecture? Follow me!". The headline to the dispatch reads STRIKING WAITERS STORM THE HOTELS. CARLO TRESCA AGITATOR FOR THE IWW WAS IN CHARGE OF THE DEMONSTRATION.

Despite his intense participation in IWW strikes, Tresca was never a member of this or any other labor organization. Because of the way he was mistreated by the Socialist Labor Federation, whose official papers *Il Glebe* and *Il Proletario* he edited, Tresca became a free-lancer. He vowed ever to be a member or official in any labor movement. But he acted like a good consistent wobbly. He propagandized the unorganized, the cruelly exploited Italian immigrants herded in virtual slave mining camps and steel mills in the Pittsburgh and other areas. Regardless of union affiliation, Tresca devoted himself solely to the rank-and-file, the underdog. He persistently exposed the class-collaboration, corruption and dictatorship of their union officials. For example: in 1910 during the Westmoreland, Pennsylvania miners strike, Tresca proved that the officials of their union, the United Mine Workers, were in league with the employers, the coal operators.

In his unfinished memoirs Tresca extolled "...the new principles of syndicalism which aim to unite all the workers..." Tresca worked closely with Bill Haywood and Elizabeth Gurly Flynn in the Lawrence textile and the Patterson silk mill strikes. When Tresca's fellow workers Joe Ettor and Arturo Giovannetti were being tried for the murder of Anna Lopezzi during the Lawrence strike Tresca staged a monster demonstration of 20,000 strikers who pledged to remain on strike until Ettor and Giovannetti were declared not guilty and released. After the Lawrence strike Tresca received a telegram from Vincent St. John, the General-Secretary of the IWW to take charge of the Little Falls, New York and after that the New York City Hotel Workers Strike.

Tresca selflessly participated in the militant class struggle strikes of the IWW in Lawrence, Patterson, the New York City Hotel workers strike, the great Mesabi Range iron ore miners strike in Minnesota. The massive demonstrations calling on the workers to avenge the Ludlow, Colorado massacres of striking miners and their families, the hunger march of the unemployed workers in New York City and many other no less militant direct economic action struggles. Tresca's journal *L'Avvenire* (The Future) was barred from the mails for opposing World War I and his organ *Il Martello* (The Hammer) arbitrarily deprived of mailing rights many times.

When I criticized Tresca for associating with reformist class collaborationist unions, Carlo explained that since the practical disappearance of the IWW from the textile mills after the defeat of the Patterson strike, the Italian-speaking workers joined reformist unions like the ACW (Amalgamated Clothing Workers) and ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers Union), and he had no alternative.

Tresca's organ *Il Martello* (The Hammer) was bankrupt. For him, the disappearance of *Il Martello* meant the loss of effective contact with the Italian workers. He was so constituted that without such activity he could not exist. In a revealing meeting with Luigi Antonini, secretary-Treasurer of Italian-speaking Local 89 of the ACW, Tresca told him that his only condition for cooperation was that financial assistance be provided by the union. Antonini reminded him that he should be grateful because "Il Martello would not exist without me." Tresca was not employed by the

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## Lessons in Labor

## Organizing the Meatpackers



## Frank Ellias and Hormel

## Roots to the IWW

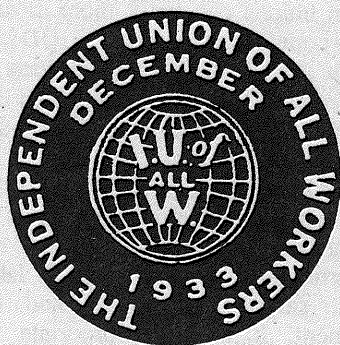
Editor's Note: This is the first of an ongoing series on organizing in Austin, MN., That will extend to the present with the struggles of P-9.

It all began very early for young Frank Ellias, who learned the packing house industry by helping his father on the killing floor at the Swift Co. plant in St. Joseph, Missouri. His experience increased during the industry wide strike of 1904. It gave Frank the experience and knowledge he needed to dedicate his life to laboring people. Throughout his teens and early twenties Frank traveled by rail, with red card in hand, to spread the philosophy of the I.W.W. Using his skills as a butcher, he had no problem finding work in the local packing house. He rarely stayed in one place more than a couple months because once inside he often provoked a fight over freedom of speech and again preached the Wobbly philosophy.

By 1928 Frank found himself in a small upper midwest community called Austin, Minnesota. Austin was the home of the Geo. A. Hormel packing plant. Tents and tar paper shacks could be found at the edge of the city; the workers who lived in them were a ready source of cheap labor for the local packing house.

The Hormel company had expanded from 1891 through 1907 from processing 650 hogs to well over 100,000 hogs annually. Though working conditions had suffered dramatically due to Hormels growth, Jay Hormel, son of founding father George, hired Frank Ellias as a foreman to organize production in the casing processing department. Once inside, Frank had no trouble hiring other rebels in various departments. Joe Ollman and Joe Voorhees were among the activists Frank brought to Austin for the events that would write labor history.

Conditions by mid-west inspired workers in the plant to talk of forming a union. Money from an already too small paycheck was being deducted for company sponsored funds. Most workers could not see this as a benefit but rather another weakness to be toyed with by company foreman. The attitude of Jay Hormel, a Princeton graduate, was that management-labor relations were nothing more than a benevolent dictator-



ship. Frustrated over the diminishing paycheck, one group of workers agreed to band together to stop this injustice.

When the foreman of the company solicited the next deduction, the workers retaliated with a ten minute work stoppage. With no other alternative, the company abolished the pressure tactic of payroll deductions.

Word of this victory buzzed through the entire plant and inspired workers to arrange for a mass meeting. The first organized mass meeting would feature Frank Ellias as speaker. Behind the speakers table that evening, Frank used his experience with the I.W.W. and spoke of direct action and the strength of one big union. Inspired by his message, well over 600 workers gathered around the speakers table that night to pay their initiation fees. By week's end, the

remainder of the workers followed.

Because of the political dilemma the IWW had experienced, the members of the newly formed union chose the name: Independent Union of All Workers. Union recognition and a seniority system were among the first items being negotiated by the new IUAW. By late September, these negotiations had produced nothing. With the strength of the union in mind, the first strike vote was delayed to allow the workers to learn from this experience. By November, the growth of the union had also brought strength. With additional demands the union returned to the negotiation table. An hourly increase 20 cents per hour was added to the list. It didn't take Jay Hormel long to reject the unions proposal and on November 10, 1933 a strike vote was taken with a strike date to be set by the executive board. This tactic was designed to give the negotiating team additional power to reach a settlement. Already frustrated by the Hormel Company's failure to negotiate many of the workers returned to the plant that evening to institute the strike.

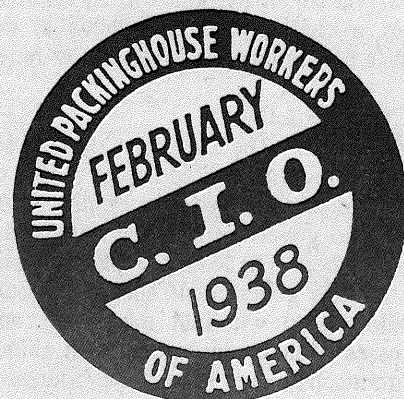
By the morning of November 11, the workers had formed picket lines and escorted all company personnel off the premises. The news of the strike spread throughout Minnesota and D.F.L. Governor Floyd B. Olson, was summoned to Austin. With Hormel's failure to persuade Olson to help break the strike, the workers were determined to stand their ground. Hormel admitted defeat and agreed to a wage increase, union recognition and the seniority system were also accepted. On November 14, 1933 the strike ended.

Following the strike, members of the union asked Frank and others to begin organizing outside of Austin. A full-time organizer was elected to concentrate on the downtown area of Austin.

Frank's organizing efforts took him through-out the midwest, and on several occasions he travelled to nearby Minneapolis. He soon became an important factor in the organizing of the Teamsters Local 544. During his absence, one of the founding members of the union had learned of a bribe made by Hormel Co. to Frank if he would leave Austin and not return.

Following a union meeting in Minneapolis on April 16, 1935 Frank was returning Austin when he was brutally assaulted. He was beaten and left for dead, but the assailant had inflicted only minor damage.

Neither bribery or beatings would stop Frank Ellias from giving his share to the advancement of the labor movement.



Organizing throughout Austin was growing at an extraordinary rate. Bartenders, beauticians, and laundry workers joined the newly formed union known as the Uptown Workers Association.

With membership growing so large, separate meetings were necessary and with the growth, Austin had earned the reputation as

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## Of Interest



## To Unionists

## HIBBING 7 FIGHT ON

Hibbing, MN, Jan 25 — Fifteen months ago seven American Linen Supply Company workers walked off the job in a strike that the plant's other 35 workers did not honor.

Known as the Hibbing 7, the strikers, all women, walked off the job October 2, 1987, after 11 of 17 members of Local 1116 UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) voted to strike after rejecting management's final offer. They were being paid \$5.42 an hour to wash, press and mend linen and had worked without a contract for 11 months. The four other members who voted to stike capitulated immediately when presented with dismissal; the strikers were replaced the next day. The strikers objected to a contract proposal to eliminate company contributions to the union pension fund.

Since the beginning the strikers have walked the picket line in temperatures dropping to 30 below-zero and subsisted on strike benefits of forty-dollars-a-week. Yet the strikers persist saying they have taken inspiration from the movie "Norma Rae." "We eat, drink, and sleep the strike," said Betty Judnitsch, "You just can't help it."

In September a Federal administrative law judge in Washington ruled that by discharging the seven women, American Linen unlawfully discriminated against employees engaged in a lawful union activity. The judge also said that American Linen must recognize Local 1116 UFCW as bargaining agent for the Hibbing workers and that a petition to decertify the union signed by a majority of plant workers four days after the strike began should be dismissed because the company illegally helped to prepare and file it. Company representatives state the strikers were never discharged. "They walked off their jobs. . . At this point not one has asked to come back," says the company president, Ed Pajunen. Appeals by the company are expected to extend the fight another year or two. . .

## STRATEGY AGAINST DISSIDENTS

Detroit, Jan 22 —United Auto Workers leaders are working on a strategy to defeat the UAW dissident movement. 350 leaders of union locals comprising the Administration Caucus will meet to formulate plans to save their bacon from dissidents lead by Region 5 Director Jerry Tucker and supported by Walter Ruether's brother, Victor.

Tucker's New Directions movement fears the UAW is growing too close to management. Says Tucker: "A union that spends a great deal of its time chasing the corporate agenda will lose its identity. . . There is no question corporations have to change to meet competition. . . but it is wrong of us as a union to submerge ourselves in their goals."

The Administration Caucus will try to unseat Tucker in Region 5 in an effort to thwart a challenge by dissidents at the UAW's constitutional convention in June.

## ACCESS RULING

Wash. Jan 17 —The Supreme Court has set aside a ruling that limited access to lists of home addresses of workers employed by the federal government to the unions that represent them. The Justice Department said they believe government agencies should be allowed to withhold the names and addresses of their employees, with unions countering that they need home addresses to communicate with members in the privacy of their homes about pending collective bargaining negotiations.

## KRAFT LAY-OFFS

Glenview, IL, Jan 17 —Kraft Inc. will lay-off 250 workers in the Chicago area to streamline operations after a buyout by Phillip-Morris of \$12.9 billion.

The lay-offs, expected since October are part of a new Productivity Improvement Program and will represent 8% of Kraft's

In the heat of last fall's presidential election campaign, the national AFL-CIO issued a series of leaflets designed to whip up union support for the Dukakis-Bentsen ticket with a bit of foreigner-bashing.

Echoing the born-again economic nationalism of candidate Michael Dukakis, the labor federation assailed the "selling of America" to "foreign interests" and argued that only a Democratic victory could "prevent foreign control of our economic future."

According to one AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE) flyer, foreign interests already "control many

by U.S.-based business interests is somehow preferable for labor. The assumption seems to be that American owners and managers are more responsive to their employees or more accountable to U.S. society as a whole.

As Thomas Jefferson observed almost 200 years ago, "the merchant has no country."

In the age of multinational corporations and highly integrated global business activity, big U.S. and foreign-based financial and industrial firms are operating subject to less and less "local control" by all of the world's nation states. The job security of many American workers, for example, has

should U.S. firms operating in foreign lands."

This gets to the real nub of the problem for trade unionists. Good corporate citizenship--or lack of it--is not a function of nationality. It's a reflection of the balance of power between labor and capital in any particular society and, increasingly, worldwide.

Some of the most anti-union corporations in the world, like the U.S.-based International Business Machines (IBM), have been forced to accept unionization of their employees in countries like Sweden where the labor movement is organizationally strong and the legal framework of industrial relations favors collective bargaining.

On the other hand, even when unionized at home, Canadian telephone equipment firms, Japanese auto manufacturers, German chemical producers, Belgian food store owners, or Italian energy conglomerates have little incentive to bargain with workers in the U.S. because the American labor movement--and labor law here--is so weak.

As the IUD points out, U.S. unions faced with recalcitrant foreign-owned employers that are unionized back home must enlist the support of the relevant foreign labor organizations to achieve greater leverage. Already, there are a number of ongoing union campaigns in which international labor cooperation is playing an essential part.

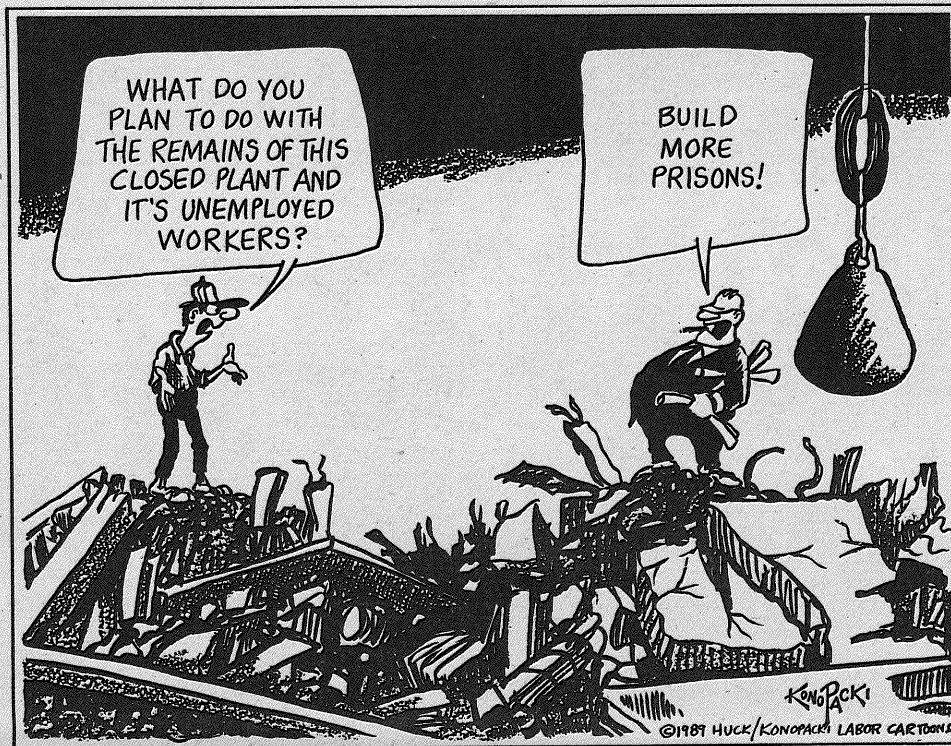
Most dramatically, employees of a Belgian supermarket chain owned by Delhaize Freres & Cie. have begun a series of rotating one-day strikes to protest union-busting activities of the firm's U.S. subsidiary, Food Lion Stores. These solidarity actions followed meetings between the Federation of Belgian Retail Employees and the U.S.-based United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

All three central labor federations in Italy are working on behalf of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) to change the U.S. labor relations policies of Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), a government-owned energy company that is battling the UMWA at mines it owns in Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. In Germany, chemical-worker unions have been aiding the two-year struggle of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) against BASF Corp., which locked out several hundred OCAW members in a bitter Louisiana labor dispute. Meanwhile, the powerful Swedish Metalworkers Federation is assisting American electrical workers trying to win union contracts at Electrolux Corp., a Swedish-based firm.

It is alliances with "foreigners" like these--fellow union members in other countries--that will ultimately strengthen labor's position in the U.S. and help unions deal more effectively with multinationals of many different stripes. Foreigner-bashing--although ostensibly directed only at employers from abroad--does little to aid labor's cause or win greater worker control over corporate decision-making anywhere in the world.

James Connolly

## Foreigner-Bashing Doesn't Work



strings of our economy." "What happens to America if they jerk those strings?" the AFL-CIO asked.

"Foreign investors now own 10 percent of America's manufacturing base," the federation asserted. "They own 20 percent of our nation's banks and, in fact, huge chunks of all commercial real estate in major cities are owned by foreign interests. That's *our* land. We say: 'Let's take America back!'"

Such rhetorical saber-rattling notwithstanding, Dukakis and Bentsen went down to defeat at the hands of a Republican ticket, which vigorously defended foreign ownership and investment in American assets as a boon to the economy.

## DEBATE GOES ON

However, as the rate of foreign investment in the U.S. increases--it doubled between 1982 and 1987--the implications of this trend will continue to be debated inside and outside the labor movement. Future Democratic candidates and unions trying to wrap themselves in the flag will certainly raise the issue again.

Unfortunately, trade union nativism just tends to obscure the real nature of the problem and the need for creative union responses based on internationalism, rather than a narrow nationalistic approach.

Implicit in recent political attacks on Japanese or European acquisition of American firms is the notion that ownership

already been badly eroded by the export of capital and jobs to lower-labor-cost countries in the Third World. Much of the corporate drive for contract concessions at home over the last ten years has been justified in terms of the need to remain "competitive" in international markets.

In light of this experience, it's a big mistake for union members to believe that bosses "born in the U.S.A." are automatically going to be more benevolent than those newly arrived from abroad.

At least one arm of the AFL-CIO understands these realities. The federation's Industrial Union Department (IUD) has adopted a sophisticated and sensible position on the foreign corporations that are buying up U.S. firms or starting new subsidiaries here. In a recently published manual on how American unions can work more closely with their counterparts abroad, the IUD says that labor should have "no objection to such investment" per se because "it can strengthen our productive capacity and expand job opportunities."

The IUD believes, of course, "that foreign-owned firms must be diligent in following both the letter and spirit of our laws, particularly in such areas as labor relations, safety and health, and the environment. It is not appropriate for foreign-owned management to imitate the industrial relations practices of a few of our most anti-labor firms. If they are to meet the criteria of exemplary guests, they should follow the most enlightened practices, as

Chicago area workforce of 2500. Those affected are in manufacturing research and development, food service operations and company headquarters (clerks or managers ? . . .).

## FREE SPEECH RULING

Wash., Jan 11 — The Supreme Court has lengthened the time period union members have to sue their unions over free-speech violations. Ruling that lawsuits do not have to be filed within six months of an incident (the deadline imposed by the NLRB for

unfair labor practices), instead, the deadline for free-speech suits will be the same as for general personal injury lawsuits in the same state. "The six month statute of limitations was not adopted with the distinct federal interest for free-speech of union members in mind. . . (it) is more like a free-speech suit against some government official than an unfair labor practice complaint," said Justice Brennan.

## DISMISSAL DAMAGES LIMITED

San Francisco, Dec 29 —The California

Supreme Court has limited the right of dismissed employees to bring suit on the basis of wrongful dismissal.

The ruling provides employees dismissed without good cause may sue only on the basis of breach of an implied or expressed contract. Damages awarded under breach of contract law result only in reinstatement and recovery of lost wages. Thus, the open-ended awards juries can make for punitive and emotional damages under tort law would seem to now be excluded.

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Health and Safety News

New Standards Issued for Toxic Exposure in Workplace

On January 17 the government issued exposure limits on 164 new toxic substances used in workplaces and allegedly tightened limits on 212 previously regulated ones.

Maximum exposure limits were lowered on such commonly used industrial materials and by-products as acetone, carbon monoxide, carbon disulfide, chloroform, hydrogen cyanide, perchloroethylene and styrene. Among the newly regulated health hazards are wood dust and grain dust, acrylic acid, butane, gasoline, paraffin wax fumes, tungsten and welding fumes (see complete list below).

The new regulations go into effect March 1, 1989 but employers have until 1992 to bring their production equipment into compliance. In the meantime they can get by with forcing us workers to use inadequate "safety equipment" like respirators.

Of course getting employers to abide by the law will require a lot of pressure from workers faced with daily poisoning. Workers should learn what the new standards are and how they were arrived at.

Jack Sheinkman, President of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), in response to the government's action noted that the new standards are "merely a rubber-stamping of the chemical industries own

recommendations." So we need to know what it is we are working with and what we are being exposed to. We also need to be organized to demand and get a safe and healthy workplace.



Here is a list of the 164 substances added for the first time to federal government regulations governing exposure to hazardous and toxic materials in the workplace, according to the Labor Department.

Names in parentheses are alternative names for the substances.

- Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin)
- Acrylic acid
- Aluminum pyro powders
- Aluminum welding fumes
- Aluminum soluble salts
- Aluminum alkyls
- Amitrole
- Ammonium chloride fume
- Atrazine
- Bismuth telluride, Se-doped
- Borates, anhydrous
- Borates, decahydrate
- Borates, pentahydrate
- Boron tribromide
- Bromacil
- Bromine pentafluoride
- Butane
- Butyl acrylate
- n-Butyl lactate
- o-sec-Butylphenol
- Calcium cyanamide
- Calcium hydroxide
- Caprolactam dust
- Caprolactam vapor
- Captafol (DifolatanR)
- Captan
- Carbofuran (FuradanR)
- Carbon tetrabromide
- Carbonyl fluoride
- Catechol (Pyrocatechol)
- Cesium hydroxide
- Chloroacetyl chloride
- Chlorodifluoromethane
- Chloropentafluoro-ethane
- o-Chlorostyrene
- o-Chlorotoluene
- Chlorpyrifos
- Cobalt carbonyl
- Cobalt hydrocarbonyl
- Cruformate
- Cyanamide
- Cyanogen
- Cyanogen chloride
- Cyclohexylamine
- Cyclonite
- Cyclopentane
- Cyhexatin
- Diazinon
- 2-N-Oibutylamino-ethanol
- Dichloroacetylne
- 1,3-Dichloropropene
- 2,2-Dichloropropionic acid
- Dicrotophos
- Dicyclopentadiene
- Diethanolamine

- Diethylene triamine
- Diethyl ketone
- Diethyl phthalate
- Dinitolmide (3,5-Dinitro-o-toluamide)
- Dioxathion (Delnav)
- Diphenylamine
- Dipropyl ketone
- Diquat
- Disulfiram
- Disulfoton
- 2,6-Di-tert-butyl-p-cresol
- Diuron
- Divinyl benzene
- Endosulfan
- Ethion
- Ethylene glycol
- Ethylidene norbornene
- Fenamiphos
- Fensulfothion
- Fenthion
- Fonofos
- Formamide
- Gasoline
- Germanium tetrahydride
- Glutaraldehyde
- Grain dust (oat, wheat, barley)
- Hexachlorobutadiene
- Hexachlorocyclopentadiene
- Hexafluoroacetone
- Hexane isomers
- Hexylene glycol
- Hydrogenated terphenyls
- 2-Hydroxypropyl acrylate
- Indene
- Indium and compounds
- Iodoform
- Iron pentacarbonyl
- Iron salts
- Isooctyl alcohol
- Isophorone diisocyanate
- 2-Isopropoxyethanol
- N-Isopropylaniline
- Manganese cyclopenta-dienyl tricarbonyl
- Manganese tetroxide
- Methacrylic acid
- Methomyl (Lannate)
- 4-Methoxyphenol
- Methylacrylonitrile
- Methyl 2-cyanoacrylate
- Methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl
- Methyl demeton
- 4,4'-Methylene bis (2-chloroaniline)
- Methylene bis (4-cyclo-hexylisocyanate)
- Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide

- Methyl isoamyl ketone
- Methyl isopropyl ketone
- Methyl parathion
- Methylsilicate Metribuzin
- Monocrotophos
- Nonane
- Paraffin wax fume
- Phenothiazine
- Phenyl mercaptan
- Phenylphosphine
- Phorate
- Phosphorus oxychloride
- m-Phthalodinitrile
- Piperazine dihydro-chloride
- Platinum metal
- Potassium hydroxide
- Propargyl alcohol
- Propionic acid
- Propoxur (Baygon)
- Propylene glycol dinitrate
- Propylene glycol monomethyl ether
- Resorcinol
- Rosin core solder pyrolysis products
- Silicon tetrahydride
- Sodium azide
- Sodium bisulfite
- Sodium metabisulfite
- Subtilisins (Proteolytic enzymes)
- Sulfur tetrafluoride
- Sulprofos
- Tetrasodium pyrophosphate
- Thioglycolic acid
- Thionyl chloride
- Tin oxide (as Sn)
- p-Toluidine
- Trichloroacetic acid
- 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene
- Trimellitic anhydride
- Trimethylamine
- Trimethyl benzene
- Trimethyl phosphite
- Triphenyl amine
- Tungsten, insoluble compounds
- Tungsten, soluble compounds
- n-Valeraldehyde
- Vinyl acetate
- Vinyl bromide
- Vinyl cyclohexene dioxide
- Vinylidene chloride (1,1-Dichloroethylene)
- VM & P Naphtha
- Welding fumes
- Wood dust, all soft and hard woods, except Western red cedar
- Wood dust, Western red cedar
- m-Xylene alpha, alpha'-diamine

continued from page 6

Of Interest to Unionists

SOUTH KOREA: VISTORY AT IBM; TOUGH GOING AT MOTOTOLA

On January 13 the South Korean subsidiary of the U.S. multinational International Business Machines Inc. (IBM), IBM Korea Inc., signed an agreement granting union recognition for approximately 180 of the 700 workers employed by the firm. The accord provides the union with office space on company premises and grants union leaders up to 173 paid hours per month to work on union business. This is the usual practice in South Korea.

The union established itself in August 1988 with 15 members and quickly grew to over 300 adherents. But a vigorous anti-union drive by management which included the usual methods of captive meetings, individual employee "interviews" ad nauseum put a damper on the initial enthusiasm.

Faced with IBM Korea management's recalcitrance union activists occupied the corporation's headquarters in mid-December and resorted to a hunger strike as the new year began, to increase the pressure to settle. Both the hunger strike and the occupation ended with the signing of the agreement.

This is an important victory, not only for IBM Korea workers, but for workers throughout IBM's world-wide empire.

The next multinational nut to crack in Korea, however is Motorola Korea Ltd., one of the biggest U.S.-based employers in the country, working over 4,000 wage-slaves. Motorola Korea has been engaged in a knock-down-drag-out battle over union recognition, resorting to the use of goons wielding iron bars and electric cattle prods in attacks on union militants.

SUDAN: GENERAL STRIKE FORCES PRICE ROLLBACK

Millions of Sudanese workers brought business in this northeast African nation to a screeching halt December 29, 1988 with a powerful general strike to protest the government's imposition of steep price and tax increases. The government of Prime Minister Sadek Mahdi decreed a 600 percent rise in the price of sugar and a 50 percent hike in the price of cigarettes. In addition a 15 percent sales tax was levied on all domestically produced goods. The government claimed that the increases were necessary to cover the cost of wage raises of from 50 to 500 percent for both industrial and public service workers which took effect December 1.

The strike, organized by the 2 million member Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation, not only demanded that the increases be rolled back but that the government resign and that movement towards a solution for the 5-1/2 year civil war which has been raging in southern Sudan be pursued.

Although violence flared briefly as police sought to break up demonstrations the strike was overwhelmingly effective and the government was forced to capitulate and rescind its earlier decree. At the same time the wage increases, which union leaders claim were supposed to have been effective last July, remained in place.

Once again the General Strike proves its power.

YUGOSLAVIA: RAIL WORKERS STRIKE

A strike by 1,000 railroad workers in the Slovenian town of Ljubljana on December 27 once again highlighted the growing economic and political crisis gripping this so-called "socialist republic".

Faced with a 250 percent annual inflation rate, a 15 percent unemployment rate and a \$21 billion dollar foreign debt, Yugoslavian workers have seen the buying power of their

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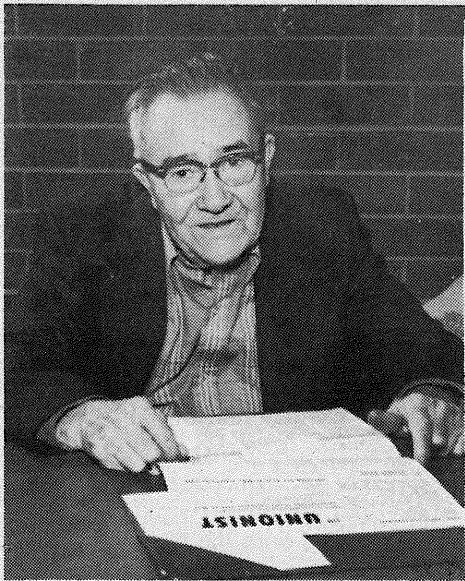


## ORGANIZING THE MEATPACKERS

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a 100% union town.

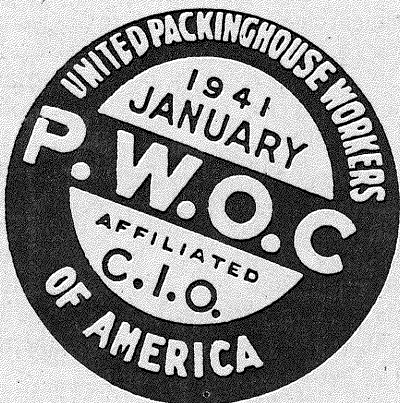
On March 22, 1934 Frank had made arrangements to meet with leaders of the Minneapolis Teamsters Union Local 594, Ray Dunne. Learning of his trip, two young women from Austin approached Ellias and asked for a ride to an aunt's house. Ironically, on their arrival the aunt was not home. Frank convinced the women it was unwise for them to hitchhike back to Austin, due to



Frank Ellias

an on-coming storm. The two women and Frank stayed, in separate rooms at a local hotel. Following his meeting with Dunne that evening, the three returned to Austin the next morning. Eighteen months after that meeting Frank and the editor of the Midwest Americas newspaper, Walter Liggett, were charged and tried with abduction of minors and sodomy.

With a biased jury in place (union members excluded), the trial proceeded. Facing a life sentence, if convicted, Liggett's case was thrown out of court by the judge who ruled that perjury had been committed. The trial continued and Frank Ellias was convicted. Following the trial, Liggett spent his time generating support for Ellias by collecting bail money and insuring comfortable prison conditions.



On December 6, 1935, Liggett produced a full account of the frame-up in the Midwest America. Four days later he was shot to death by machine gun fire at his home in Minneapolis.

Frank was released on \$5,000 bail and immediately travelled to Albert Lea, Mn. to speak to over 1500 workers in an organizing rally.

After losing his appeal, Frank began serving his sentence, on April 29, 1937.

In an announcement on November 18 1937, the state board of pardons proclaimed that in their opinion Frank Ellias had been framed-up by reactionary employers for his activities in the union movement. He was released on a shortened sentence.

Frank returned to Austin to a large celebration, in his honor, New Years Day 1938.

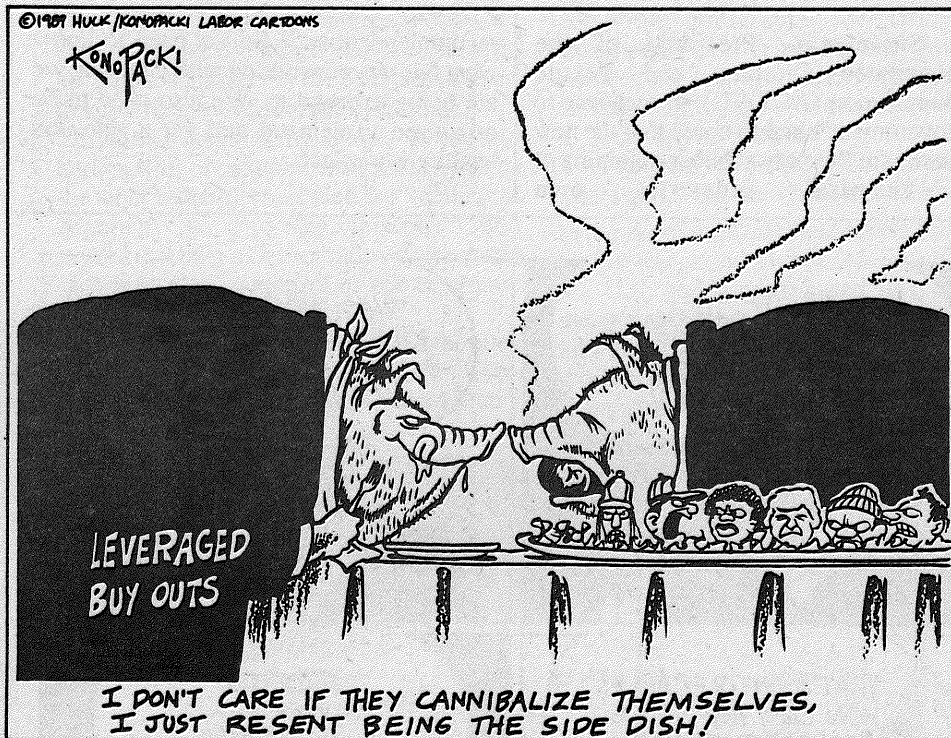
Denny Mealy.

## Carlo Tresca and the IWW

continued from page 4

union in any capacity, sought no privilege for himself and served without compensation. In return for financial assistance Tresca would collaborate — as he put it — "give my work to you."

Tresca's collaboration was accepted, not because the union leaders suddenly became anarchists, but because his influence in the



## TO GREENPEACE

### An Open Letter

Dear Greenpeace,

Five months ago the Seattle Greenpeace phone bank was closed and its employees were terminated. Though the immediate impact of this act has passed, the issues that it raised remain. The key demands we raised (union recognition, no high pressure telemarketing techniques, no telephone surveillance and a more democratic workplace) share a common theme: the need for Greenpeace to show respect for its workers, its supporters and the general public. This question of respect won't go away. We are prepared to pursue this question as long as proves necessary.

Last summer when we first protested the preemptory "pollution" of the work environment in the Seattle Greenpeace phone bank, we did so somewhat bewildered by the source of such "toxic" authoritarianism within an ethically based environmental group. We felt a bit intimidated by the international scope and reputation of the organization we were now challenging. Yet we proceeded with confidence in our cause coming from the direct evidence of our own experience. After receiving hundreds of signatures and statements of support we feel a lot less alone now and the context of our grievances has broadened. We now see that our struggle with Greenpeace management is but one episode in an ongoing saga of grassroots upsurge against a centralized Greenpeace bureaucracy.

Little did we know last summer that our protest came on the heels of complaints by several Rochester, New York canvassers over fraudulent practices within Greenpeace. Nor were we aware that other New York Greenpeace workers had been dismissed in 1987 for their organizing efforts. We have also learned that in Seattle itself the 1984 Greenpeace workers organized a strike over work grievances. The Strike, we were told, led to an agreement with Greenpeace which was subsequently broken by Greenpeace management.

Greenpeace today shows no more respect for democratic process than it does for its workers. A Board of Directors selected by a small elite inner sanctum oversees a centralized command

structure based in Washington, D.C. The many thousands of individuals who provide the funds for Greenpeace have no role whatsoever in selecting its leadership or guiding its policies. As a longtime Greenpeace activist recently told us rather bitterly, "Democracy is nothing in Greenpeace. Hierarchy is everything."

Financial accountability apparently fares no better than democratic process. The Philanthropic Advisory Service of the Better Business Bureau recently reported to us that they have "requested written information from the organization three times in the past year (twice by certified mail). To date, Greenpeace has not responded to our request for information about their use of funds, solicitations and informational materials, governance, or fund raising practices." Apparently Greenpeace is unconcerned with the public's right to an objective, independent evaluation of its financial practices.

The public's response to our protest of Greenpeace practices has convinced us that we have touched upon a significant issue. Months after our public protest actions, inquiries continue to come in from around the world. In the past two weeks alone messages of support and interest have come from as far away as London, England and Copenhagen, Denmark.

As the deadly dimensions of the ecological crisis become more painfully apparent so too does the need for grassroots control of the environmental movement. To turn environmental groups into mirror images of corporate hierarchies is to betray the very heart and soul of the environmental movement. We stand committed to join with our fellow workers throughout North America and around the world to fight for a re-greening of Greenpeace i.e., a grass-rooted democratic dedication to global ecological harmony.

Sincerely,

Stan Anderson, Stacy MacFadden,  
Allen Thompson, Pari Sellers, Vicky  
Arnhart, and Erin Snow.

The Greenpeace Workers' Organizing  
Committee, Industrial Union 670, IWW.

Italian locals would serve to reinforce their power. To ask the dictator of a pro-state capitalist union to subsidize an anarchist-syndicalist journal is an illusion — an unprincipled and an unworkable deviation. True to our principles, the publication of Il Martello should have been suspended.

To her credit, Gallagher documents the very important point that Tresca, in collaborating with the ACW did not repudiate anarcho-syndicalism but on the contrary, tried to sustain and reinforce his principles. She notes in this connection that Tresca, in opposition to the euphoric pro-Roosevelt "New Deal" policy of the reformist unions, argued that "Roosevelt was an industrial and social dictator whose attempts at reform served only to preserve the failing capitalist system," a charge that applies equally to Roosevelt's labor allies as well as Tresca's cooperation with these very same unions. Tresca trapped himself in the insoluble contradiction between collaboration and his dearest revolutionary aspirations. Notwithstanding his mistakes, his dedication to our cause never faltered.

I first met Tresca in 1933 during the campaign to drive the fascists off the streets of New York and disrupt their meetings. A united front defense committee was organized to defend the militant anti-fascist Athos Terzani falsely accused of having shot and killed his young comrade Anthony Fierro at a free-for-all battle at a gathering of the fascist Silver Shirts of America. By way of supplementing Gallagher's account, I must stress the key role of Herbert Mahler, Secretary of the IWW General Defense Committee in gathering the information needed for Terzani's release.

To note Terzani's acquittal and publicize the demand for punishment of the real killers, Terzani and his fiancée accepted Mahler's suggestion that they be married on the stage of Irving Plaza Hall. They were married by Municipal Court Judge Dorothy Kenyon, an event widely reported in the press and radio. I spoke with Tresca many times on the same platform and at no time did he display the slightest inclination to modify his revolutionary syndicalist convictions. During his lifetime Tresca was jailed dozens of times, fined, threatened with deportation, charged with offenses ranging from disturbing the peace and assault to high treason, bombed, mutilated by an assassin armed with a razor, almost kidnapped, shot at, and finally murdered.

Over forty years ago I took my place among Tresca's comrades, strewed flowers on the spot in New York City where he fell, murdered by paid assassins, paid tribute to his gallant achievements for the emancipation of the oppressed. Since then only a few of us remain. The rest of our dear comrades have passed away. Dorothy Gallagher's biography and our pledge to continue his efforts are a fitting tribute to his memory.

IN SOLIDARITY RIGHT ON!

Sam Dolgoff  
X327560

GOOD PAY or BUM WORK

I.W.W.



ONE BIG UNION

WE NEVER FORGET



## Record Review

# Work's Many Voices

### WORK'S MANY VOICES

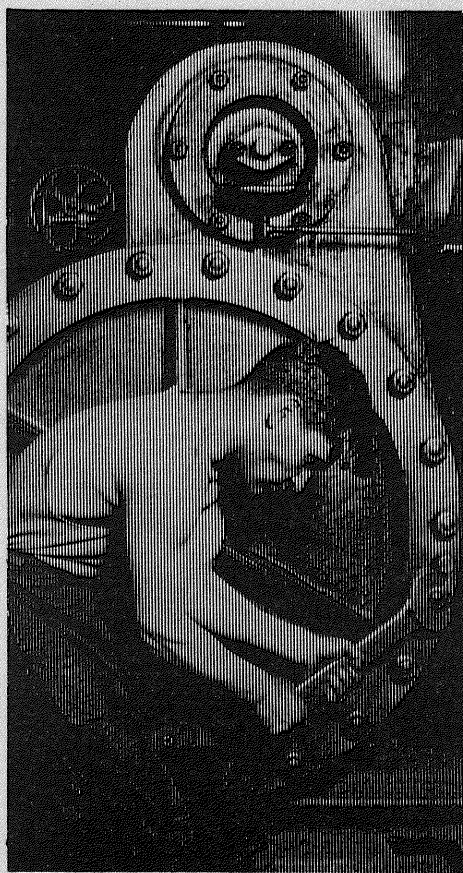
Volumes I & II

\$10 each or \$20 the set  
Down Home Music/Arhoolie Records  
10341 San Pablo Avenue  
El Cerrito, California 94530

The John Edwards Memorial Forum, an organization promoting interest in American traditional and vernacular music is responsible for the production of these two albums of various contemporary songs celebrating the work situation in one way of the other. Folklorist Archie Green compiled some 32 original 45 RPM single records that were produced primarily for the juke box market. These were recordings that were made between 1950 and 1985.

The majority of these recordings were pressed by regional record companies, some of them, in fact, having been produced in garage studios. In the liner notes Archie Green states that we tend to affirm personal and group identity by various markers such as birth, region, speech, belief and the manner in which we make our living. In these two albums are to be found various regional and ethnic idioms. While there are those who would hold that the original intent behind the production of these recordings was commercial motivation, the fact that they drew in the nickles, dimes and quarters of ordinary working stiff, gives these albums a certain authenticity that is lacking in the glossy long play albums put out by the "folkies". This being said with all due respect to the "folkies" who do an admirable job of preserving a rich musical heritage.

While it may appear that certain musical styles have disappeared or are in danger of disappearing, this collection show the continuity of folk music traditions that have existed since the last century, some of the recordings, if not direct copyings from older recordings, use the same style and melodies.



Other recordings are quite contemporary in musical style. Both old and contemporary styles, however, address contemporary issues concerning those who must work for a living. While the majority of these recordings are "country and western" or "hillbilly", there are also Black country and urban blues, Mexican corridos, Louisiana Cajun as well as some that don't easily fit into any regional classification.

"Makin' my livin' by the sweat of my brow" recorded in country music capital Nashville by Californian Bill Carter sings this lament,

"I learned early in life to live by this rule, That a working man's nothing but a rich man's tool!"

North Carolina bluesman Big Boy Henry in his musical tribute to President Reagan's pronouncement that things are getting better,

"... might be better in Washington, D.C. But not here in N.C."

Back in 1946 the Library of Congress folklore division recorded Pennsylvania miner Albert Morgan's humorous ditty, "Union Man". Thirteen years later an Eastern European-style group from the same Anthracite region, called the Shoreliners made a snappy polka version of the same song. "Pipe Fitter Blues" sung in English by a Louisiana Cajun group laments "all you hear on TV news is lay-offs..."

"Sawmill Man" tells of primitive living conditions but yet having pride in his craft.

"Corrido de la Huelga" is a Mexican corrido done in the style of the American Southwest celebrates the Phelps Dodge strike at Clifton and Morenci in Arizona. While the guitars and female voice do a moving rendition typical of the region, the actual lyrics are vague as to the time and motive of the strike. Such is not the case with "Corrido de Delano" composed and sung by Mexican recording star Lalo Guerrero with the accompaniment of Norteno accordion and mariachi trumpets, clearly stating dates, locales and goals during the United Farmworkers' Organizing Committee's organizing campaign in the early 1960s.

"Twenty-Nine More Men" done in classic white ballad style laments the loss of the crew who sank along with the iron-ore carrier Edmund Fitzgerald in Lake Superior.

"Oscar's Cannonball" is a parody on The Wabash Cannonball by the Goose Island Ramblers on working conditions at the Oscar Meyer meat packing plant in Madison, Wisconsin.

Two excellent Cajun songs sung in French are "Hey, Boss Man", a rock 'n' roll rendition of a working stiff taking his employer to task and "Riches of a Musician". Musicians are a crucial factor in perpetuating Cajun identity and this song tells that while a musician's life may not be the easiest, it still has its satisfactions.

Women's concerns are expressed in two different musical styles. Camille Howard playing a mean blues piano in "Business Woman" exposes the often-thin borderline between a singer's calling and work on the wrong side of the tracks; "If I can't make it singing, that singing will have to go!" "Working Girl", a Hillbilly-style song, gives this view of sexual harassment:

"Mr. Jones, your paper work is done, No, I don't want to have some fun!"

"Cowboy's Sweetheart" is a direct copy of the old Patsy Montana recording that is a romanticized version of life on the range.

"Saltwater Cowboys" recorded in Newfoundland tells of the maritime "Newfies" who seek employment out of western Canada and come home in western ragalia. Performed by an Irish musical band:

"You can't fool yer old man by dressin' like that;

Yer still just a Newfie in a Calgary (cowboy) hat!"

"Island Creek Mine Fire," an Appalachian-style ballad tells of the holocaust at the Holden Mine in Logan County, West Virginia in March of 1960, while "Trouble in Coal Country" another country ballad tells of one of the longest strikes pulled off by the United Mine Workers in Kentucky, where President Carter told the coal bosses to meet with miners. "Number Nine Stone" tells the life of a crane operator who loads

## Farewell



## Fellow Worker

The union mourns FW Fred Hansen, who died on January 18, 1989, of cardiac arrest at age 86. Most of Fred's life was spent promoting the IWW. In his eighties Fred traveled around the country visiting fellow Wobbly oldtimers, telling them they could keep the young folks organizing for the IWW if they only paid up their dues. Fred himself was one of the original members of Marine Transport Workers IU 510, and he never gave up his card.

Fellow Worker Hansen retired from his job as an able bodied sea farer to go to work in the Houston and Gulf ports as a longshoreman at the age of 65.

As a member of the New York Regional General Membership Branch, he encouraged, supported, prodded and educated new and old members and was admired and loved by all who knew him. His stories of IWW history and of organizing in the ports were vivid and true and brought our union past closer to us.

Fellow Worker Hansen's last wishes were to be cremated and his ashes spilled over land and sea ...

### Give to the INDUSTRIAL WORKER Sustaining Fund

gravel at a ready-mix concrete plant faced with speed-ups and unscheduled overtime. An urban blues recorded in Detroit has this to say about speed-ups in the auto industry:

"Please, Mr. Foreman, slow down your assembly line,

Please, Mr. Foreman, slow down your assembly line,

I don't mind working — but I do mind dyin'!"

The decline of the steel industry in the past ten years has been devastating to the steel workers and is dramatically told in the urbanized country rendition of "Steel Mill Blues."

Archie Green admits to making no attempt at representing all work situations due to the limitation of two discs but construction stiffers are honored in "Pan Man Jake", a heavy machine operator. "Working Class Hero" lauds the song writer's father who works as an operations engineer. "Cable Car Operator" done by a novelty orchestra and including the sounds of the San Francisco cable cars honors cable car operators whose skill and engaging informality are known around the world. It is sung to the tune of the old commercial jingle "Rice-A-Roni, the San Francisco Treat."

A traditional country song recorded in 1929, "Hard Times in the Country Down on Penny's Farm" has been redone at Salisbury, North Carolina in 1966 as "Hard Times in a Cotton Mill." Another very old

## Watchdog

## Your Pension

Will the last part of your life — retirement — be a happy period when you have the time and money to spend as you wish? Or will it be a nightmare of worry. Worry over money for medical bills, money to pay the mortgage?

The difference between those two "retirements" is probably your union pension — because Social Security will only provide enough for bare bones existence. We have all heard horror stories of workers who retired expecting a decent pension and found they had been cheated out of part or all of it — either because the pension plan was robbed or the rules cut them out of benefits they should get.

Construction workers often lose years of pension credit because we move to follow the work. When we move we may lose every nickel we paid into one pension plan and have to start all over with a new plan.

Another problem we may have is the badly managed (crooked) pension plan. Many workers believe the government is watchdogging their pension plan. But this is usually not true. There are over 800,000 pension plans in the USA and the federal investigators review less than one percent each year. This means your pension plan may not be checked out for the next hundred years!

The government requires pension (and other welfare) plans to issue annual reports and make them available to members upon request. Still, the only effective way to protect your own retirement is to watchdog your union pension plan. Fortunately, there is help available. The Pension Rights Center, a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. publishes a booklet called Protecting Your Pension Money which shows you how to understand the information your pension plan is required to supply, how to spot problems and what to do.

Protect your future now — send \$6.00 for Protecting Your Pension Money. Send check or money order to:

Pension Rights Center  
918 16th St. N.W., Suite 704  
Washington, DC 20006  
Phone (202) 296-3776

Frank McMurray;  
by permission from Hard Hat Times.

country tune, "Pretty Polly" is used by Appalachian coal miner Ed Sturgill in his "31 Depression Blues" copying part of Tennessee Ernie's "Sixteen Tons" lyrics while accompanying himself with some Appalachian-style banjo picking.

Redneck nationalism is promoted in "Buy American" where the workers are urged not to buy foreign made products that put stateside workers out of work.

Famous personalities are commemorated in two hillbilly-style ballads. The "Ballad of Walter Reuther" is about the president of the United Automobile Workers and the "Ballad of Jimmy Hoffa" was commissioned by a Houston Teamster official to offset the bad press laid on the late Teamster president and tells of the politician's zeal to nail Hoffa.

A reggae tune, "Mindworker," recorded in Oakland, California tells of the conflict between teachers and students in the ghetto. "Oilfield Blues" done as a Jimmy Rogers' blue yodel, tells of the oilfield workers. "Tip Top Hard Hat Man of the USA" is a country swing number in the style of Johnny Cash, offsetting the image of the hard hat worker as a bastion of reactionary politics by exhorting workers to "stick with your union hall" with work conditions being unsteady.

Archie Green is to be congratulated for producing some of our precious union history. A forthcoming album will be using old 78's dating back to the 1920's.

This is a set of recordings that would make a valuable addition to any unionist's library and your reviewer highly recommends it.

Carlos Cortez.



continued from page 2

# CORRESPONDENCE

next Conference on Workers' Self-Organization. So, I would like to hear from those who have suggestions for the next conference. You can write to me at: P.O. Box 40400, San Francisco, CA 94140.

Best Wishes,  
Tom Wetzel

## DON'T BLAME WORKER

To the Editor of *The Blade*:

I'm sick and tired of hearing people blame the American laborer for the high cost of living.

I was a senior cost accountant for manufacturer of vinyl, and I can tell you firsthand that back when vinyl tops on cars were popular, the total labor cost in manufacturing the top for a car was 67 cents and the same top sold in the dealer showroom for \$125. I don't know what it cost to cut out and paste the top on the car, but I venture to say it was not more than \$2.

I was also a cost accountant for Kaiser Jeep Corp., and I remember specifically the total labor cost for manufacturing a complete windshield wiper assembly--including the motor--was \$1.27; the cost of installing it in a dealer's service department was \$45.

I can say unequivocally from my extensive experience that every major manufacturer in America could double the wages of its workers, cut its prices in half, and still make money.

Blaming the farmer for the high cost of food is another fraud. A box of cereal which sells for \$2.75 contains three cents worth of grain.

I wish all the workers and farmers in America would get together and join a union--the same union--and call a national strike and demand their fair share of the pie they make.

Oliver C. Tester  
5601 Pawnee Rd.

(Eds. Note: Brother Tester makes a lot of sense. But why settle for just a bigger slice of the pie we baked? Why not take over the whole damn bakery?)

## PROTESTS TO CONTINUE AT NEVADA TEST SITE

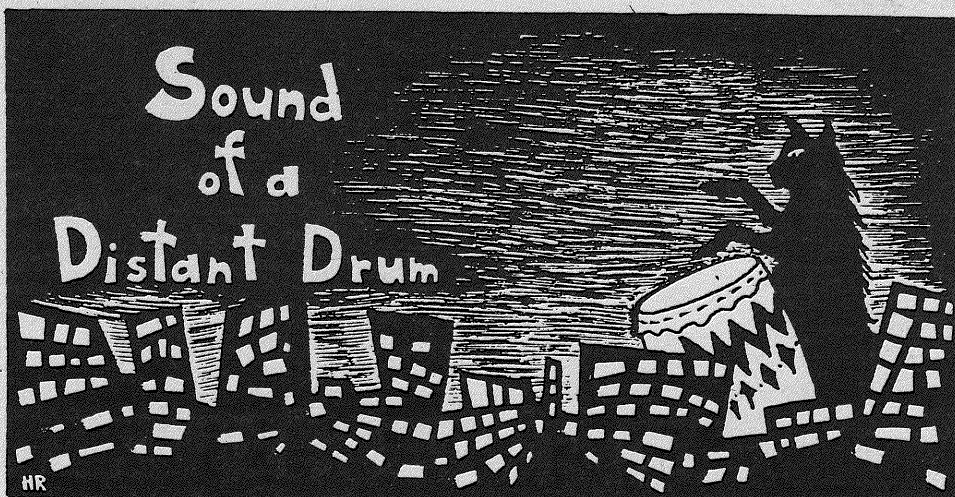
Fellow Workers,

Two years ago, the United States tested Hazebrook, a small nuclear weapon. Thousands of people came from all over the world to demonstrate and some attempted to delay the test. It stopped for no one. The D.O.E. tested the weapon a day ahead of schedule, leaving most of us miles from ground zero. The thousands gathered the day after the test and then departed, but four of us remained hiding in the desert. We were joined a few days later, by four welcome friends.

Two of our friends has spent several weeks in jail for trespassing on the Nevada Test Site, and didn't want to be caught again, so they returned to Las Vegas while the rest of us continued hiking to Yucca Flat. We arrived at ground zero two days before the Tornel test and were soon arrested at gun point. We bailed out of jail and returned to Boulder.

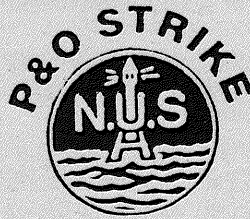
Six months later, we returned to Beatty, Nevada, to face charges of "trespassing" with intent to vex and annoy." Two men who were in court that day were facing the same charges because they had hiked three days through the desert to be welcomed by the workers at the "high security" command center near Yucca Flat. They handed our "Shut Down Rocky Flats" leaflets to the workers, while the guards spent 20 minutes trying to find someone who knew how to make a proper citizens arrest. Most of us left free as birds, but a team of six women became jailbirds for about four months. They had done something more vexing and annoying than standing on the bomb: they had stopped traffic on the Mercury Highway.

I hope that you Wobs can make it to the Test Site April 15, when people will once again gather by the thousands to demonstrate against the destruction of our planet. I can just imagine a large group of



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has published her New Year's Honors List (via the politico Ma Thatcher) and once again I am not included for that ol' Life Peerage and a seat in the House of Lords continues to evade me.

All one can do is bite the bullet and continue to cry revolution in the hope that some misty distant future Labour Party government might award me the defunct Order of the British Empire Third Class for service to the cause of world revolution. We jest for fear we weep for in this year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 1989 there is little for the British working class to smile about. Never since the grim 1920's has a nation been so class divided as Ma Thatcher's right wing middle class government has succeeded in doing and she has done it on the old socialist principle of the redistribution of wealth. Whereas the old time street corner socialist argued, rightly, that the wealth of a society, having been collected should flow down for the help and well being of every strata of society, the young, the old, the healthy, the sick, from each according to their ability, to each according to their need. Ma Thatcher, the Great Tory Collectivist takes the collected wealth of our society and redistributes it from the utterly utter wealthy to her vote paying middle class and there it ends comrades with every dollar given to the wealthy, metaphorically cut from the bleeding hearts of Britain's working or unemployed working class. Ma Thatcher has closed hostels for the young and this Christmas many for the first time slept on the cold pavements, homes for the mentally sick have been closed and those in most urgent need of christian help have been thrown into the homes and cares of working people incapable of caring for those so very sick in mind and body and every cut in wealth tax is declaimed as a Victory in the west. Emotive language comrades? Not for those who suffer. Bleeding heart authority estimates that Britain will have 1,000,000 homeless in 1989 and that is the price we pay as a people for the laissez-faire private entrepreneurial capitalism with political power. By Britain's white cliffs of Dover the ferry seamen and women are still on their long strike as they daily mount their pickets while the cold east winds from across the



grey seas lash their faces. It is a bitter strike, long and heart breaking, as the scabs are police protected to take the ships in and out of harbour. Seven hundred men and women

are on a strike that is said to have cost the P & O shipping line nearly 50,000,000 dollars as the striking seamen and women are desperate to hold out until spring when the cross channel ferry traffic builds up. As in all strikes, Britain's trade union godfathers claim that they are held by their short and curlies in that if they move to help the Dover sailors in their strike action then Ma Thatcher's anti-trade-union laws will tear their unmentionables off physically and economically; so the east winds blow against the white cliffs of Dover while 700 men and women sailors stand firm.

A few minutes walk from where I type, top grade television technicians mounted their strike pickets some ten months ago. It began with a 24 hour strike a year ago over working conditions, followed by a three month lock out. The 234 technicians still argue their case through legal channels but a new technical staff long ago took the strikers' places. And with a touch of the switch, picture and sound bounce off TV screens in 1989; like the teachers' strike it seems a losing battle.

Britain's teachers strike is a long running joke; the Dover sailors, a matter of concern; the TV technicians, one of sympathy. In Britain's coalfields, Arthur Scargill is preparing to create a leftwing merger with his National Union of Miners and leftwing Rod Todd's, Transport and General Workers Union. If Arthur succeeds in merging his 90,000 NUM miners with Ron Todd's 1,300,000 TGWU members, Arthur and his militant miners will be back into a new industrial power base and at this moment in time they need it. But there are moments for brooding into the base of an empty beer glass, news that the railway men and women have voted by two to one through their union ASLEF to work a seven day week if demanded by the railway authorities. For forty years the railway workers union fought against rest day workings, but heigh ho! It is now accepted, and after the October Stock Exchange crash with 12,000 yuppie jobs lost it is claimed that staff are now being sacked while out at lunch, "don't call us, we'll call you", or more dreaded, a late night knock at their homes with the message: you're fired don't come in tomorrow. Charlie and I sat in the White Hart the day before Christmas when "not even a mouse" and drank Guinness and tequila and brooded on absent friends at last week's anarchist bookshop party and I eat ice sugared Christmas cake stolen from an elite private Christmas party and while avoiding the barmen's eye, I made a Mexican Sunrise with tequila, orange juice, ice and grenadine, and Charlie and I drank Guinness and Mexican Sunrise and sat and brooded as the sorrows of the world washed over us.

Arthur Moyse.

## Of Interest to Unionists

wages fall some 25 percent in 1988. In response workers have engaged in over 1,000 strike during the year.

Specifically the rail workers were demanding a 100 percent pay increase and the resignation of Premier Branko Mikulic whom they claim is responsible for the sorry state of the country's railroads.

The response of the government of this "workers' state" was to bring in scabs from other towns to move the trains. Strikers warned that the safety of the rails could be greatly compromised by the use of untrained, unskilled personnel.

As the crisis shaking Yugoslavia to its foundations develops the Yugoslavian working class will, sooner or later, have to take matters into their own hands, get rid of their bureaucratic mentors, and implement a genuine system of workers' self-managed socialism.

## SOUTH AFRICA: UNION BUSTING AT ANGLO-AMERICAN

The Anglo American gold and coal mining corporation has been engaged in a concerted union busting campaign in an attempt to rid itself of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) which unites some 55 percent of the corporation's mainly Black workforce.

According to the NUM the company has been carrying out a campaign of "intensified repression" and "intimidating (union) members". Conditions have been rolled back to the extent that they are at times worse than before the union arrived on the scene. The union sees this rollback as a concerted effort to destroy the organization.

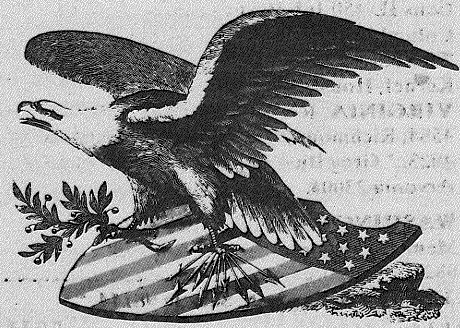
While company spokesmen deny charges of union busting they admit to carrying out room searches in the workers' hostels, and video-taping or banning union meetings. All in the name of preventing violence. Sounds like intimidation to me.

In 1987 the NUM led a massive three week strike which Anglo crushed by firing some 40,000 miners. Only 23,000 of those canned have gotten their jobs back.

Wobblies taking a short hike into the test site town of Mercury, and practicing some free speech with the union workers there. I hope to see you there!

Brando

P.S. For more information about the Nevada Test Site, Contact the Rocky Mountain Peace Center, PO Box 1156, Boulder, Colorado 80306, (303)444-6981.





DIRECTORY  
of IWW Branches & Delegates

CANADA

**BRITISH COLUMBIA.** Vancouver General Membership Branch, PO Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver BC V5N 5K5.  
**ONTARIO.** Industrial Workers of the World, Toronto Group, 26a Oxford St., 2nd Flr., Toronto, Canada M5T1N9.

GREAT BRITAIN

Dan Czunys, 13 Wolsey Street, off Heslington Road, York, YO 5BQ, England.

UNITED STATES

**ALASKA.** Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage, 99508  
**CALIFORNIA.** San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, Box 40485, San Francisco, 94140. \* Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609. \* San Diego IWW Group, PO Box 16989, San Diego, 92116.

**COLORADO.** Denver-Boulder General Membership Branch, 2412 E. Colfax Ave., Denver 80206, (303) 388-1065. Open Saturdays 9-12 noon. Meetings at 7 pm, second Sunday of each month. Educational forums monthly (call for date, time, and location). Dave Frazier, Branch Sec'y, Box 6, Rollinsville 80474, (303) 494-4809. \* Gary Cox, Delegate, 11548 Community Center Drive, Northglenn, CO 80233, (303) 452-7701. \* Lowell May Delegate, 2201 Eliot, Denver 80211, (303) 458-0870.

**FLORIDA.** Fred Hansen, Delegate, Box 824, New Port Richie, 34656.

**GEORGIA.** Atlanta IWW Group, PO Box 54766, Atlanta, 30308-0766. (404) 378-5542.

**ILLINOIS.** Chicago General Membership Branch, Abraham Bassford, Branch Sec'y, 3435 N. Sheffield, Chicago IL 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings 7:30 pm first Friday each month. \* Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

**KENTUCKY.** Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Ave. Louisville, 37581.

**LOUISIANA.** Shreveport IWW Group, PO Box 37581, Shreveport, 71133.

**MARYLAND.** Baltimore Area General Membership Branch, PO Box 33528, Baltimore 21218. Rosana Marino, Branch Sec'y. Meets 2nd Wednesday each month. Regional Organizing Committee, Greg Buckingham, Chair, Rt. 1, Box 137 A, Arvonnia, VA 23004.

**MASSACHUSETTS.** Boston Area General Membership Branch, Box 454, Cambridge 02139. (617) 469-5162. \* Berkshire Learning Center Job Branch. 35 Curtis Terrace, Pittsfield, 01201.

**MICHIGAN.** Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197. (313) 483-3478. \* People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. \* Grand Rapids IWW, PO Box 211, Comstock Park 49321. \* Ann Arbor Tenant's Union, 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor MI 48109, (313) 763-6876.

**MINNESOTA.** Minneapolis-St. Paul General Membership Branch (Nancy Collins, Delegate) PO Box 2245, St. Paul, 55102. Meetings third Wednesday each month.

**MONTANA.** Western Montana General membership Branch. 415 N. Higgins, Room 104, Missoula. Open Monday thru Saturday, 12-5. (800) 873-4000 or (406) 721-3000. A. L. Nurse, Delegate. Address all correspondence to IWW Branch, PO Box 8562, Missoula, 59807.

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**WASHINGTON.** Bellingham General Membership Branch, Box 1386, Bellingham 98227. \* Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Ave. South, Seattle 98144. \*

Preamble of the  
Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

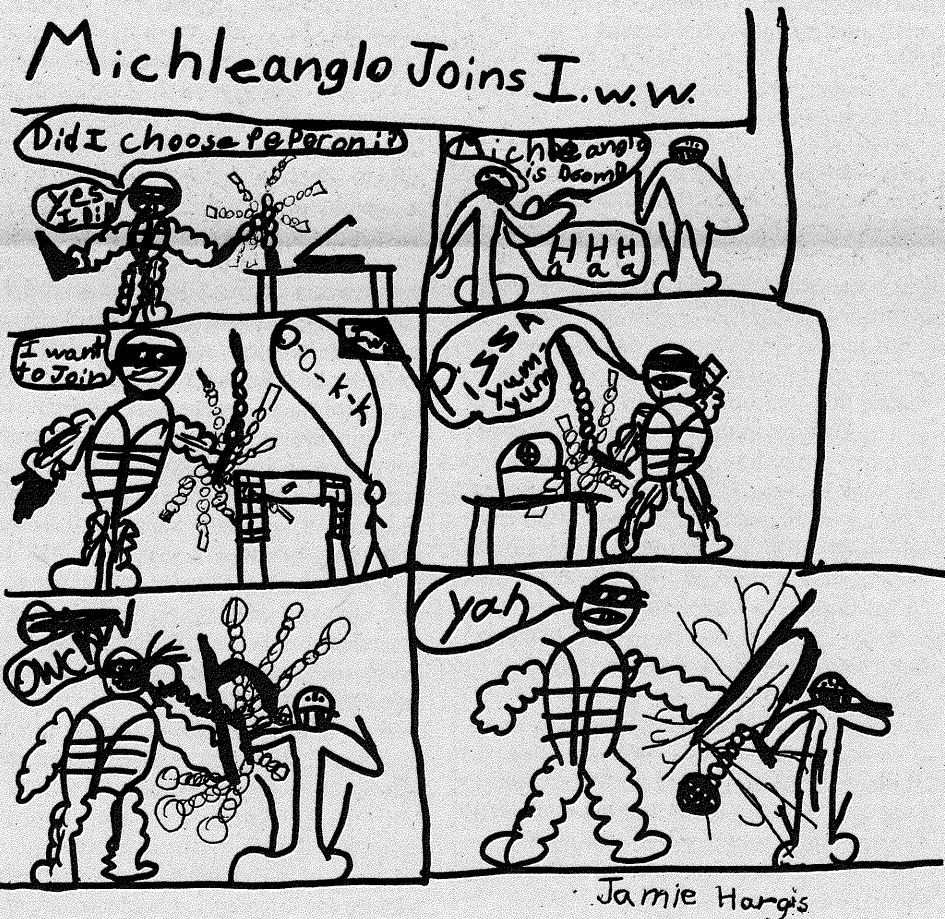
BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHELD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.



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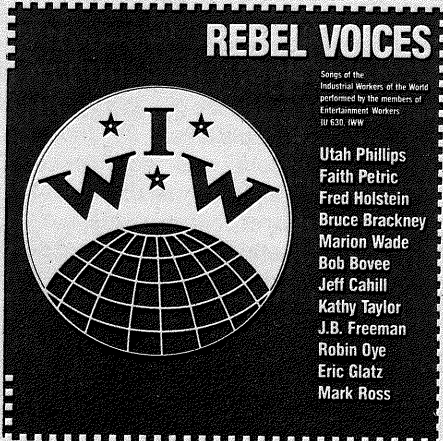
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# News and Views from Canada

continued from page 3

in 1981, unions blocked the loading of uranium for export for several weeks; in 1988, the British "nuclear capable" aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* abandoned efforts to dock in Melbourne for a ten day "goodwill mission" when tugboat workers folded their arms and shook their heads.

The target of our anger should therefore be that class which chooses to make their wealth by controlling the creative labour of other people, or otherwise acquires wealth far beyond any reasonable personal needs. To choose to live off the sweat of others endorses the view that people are *unable to function* without a parent watching over them; thus aborting the process by whereby people grow confident in their own abilities. Without this confidence and experience, people are unable to manage their labour power cooperatively, so even if they make an ethical choice they lack the power to make any permanent changes.

Labour Disputes are Controlled Solely by Those Directly Involved.

I don't like the idea of a bunch of outsiders telling us when to fight and when to knuckle under.

Neither do we. Our motto is "the only thing that comes from outside the job-shop is aid. No one knows more about the complexities of a labour dispute than those with their asses on the line. The rest of the union is there to back up those struggles in whatever way possible according to the wishes of the job-shop. Those outside the job-shop play an advisory role only (and only if it is requested by the workers).

When disputes occur, it is the workers who decide what form their protest or direct action will take, how calm or confrontational it will be, how long it will last, what its objectives are, and the type of external support it should seek. Because we believe in the free association of individuals, it is also the right of outside Wobs to be convinced that the struggle is worth their energy; the IWW is not a public institution that exists to serve you and fight your battles for you. Apart from the responsibilities of a few chosen delegates, the whole union operates on the principle that the only real solidarity is that which is *freely given*.

This total control exercised by members on a jobsite is particularly useful in social service industries, where personal relationships with the boss are commonplace. These "team efforts" often blur and interweave the flow of power, because even false collectives work better with human problems than traditional overt hierarchies. In these situations, confrontational labour tactics are not usually the best approach. No social service worker wants to disrupt their service, particularly to those in great need, so working conditions are improved by job action that is more subtle than is necessary, for instance, in a furniture factory. When the workers are in the saddle, the action is appropriate to that particular situation.

"Mutual Aid" Available to Those Aligned with the Union.

What use is your lousy little union, when I can join a big, powerful union?

Assuming the dues payments make it worth their trouble, you may be able to interest a large union in bankrolling you in a fight. The IWW has never had big wads of money laying around; we like to say that our strike fund is in our members' pockets. This is not only a practical structure (remember Margaret Thatcher seizing the miners' strike fund?), but it builds into a union a strong sense of solidarity and interdependence. If money was the deciding factor in liberation struggles, the boss class would have us licked before we started. Happily, although cash can grease the wheels, organized and militant workers are what wrecks a boss' day.

The primary difference between IWW organizing and that of other unions, is the use of *direct action*. This is because the

IWW encourages workers to express their militancy without being persecuted for it by their own union. When a labour conflict occurs, most unions can trust their members to do little more than leave the workplace and start a picket. By encouraging the schemers, imaginative resistance can be organized BEFORE a walk-out becomes necessary. This type of sabotage includes work slow-downs, work to rule, sitdowns, inefficiency, sick-ins and many other interesting options.

While the IWW has been very powerful, and could be made to be again, members are often "two-card" unionists; militants who operate in regular unions but who find inspiration in maintaining a working model of a revolutionary union. This means that Wobblies usually have a great wealth of practical up-to-date experience in labour organizing from which to draw.

So, apart from money, the IWW can offer far more aid than its numbers would indicate. Our strength comes from our members. Member for member, Wobblies are the most committed, cunning and militant bunch of troublemakers that you can find in almost any union north of the Rio-Grande. This means we are a far greater threat to smaller bosses than the big unions, which are organized for big workplaces (where the IWW wouldn't have a prayer without a much larger membership). Our specialty is unionizing small workplaces, and we are quite capable of making life miserable for bite-sized bosses.

No "professional union organizers" means no bureaucracy.

Why should I pay a bunch of union bureaucrats to lap up the honey, when I can't even afford a car? Your monthly union dues would cost the same as ordering two beers. If you are unemployed, they only cost one beer.

This means that those of us who are poor are not excluded from the union. This also means that it's impossible to make a career as a union boss in the IWW; there is simply no money to be had. In fact, the entire union has exactly one full-time paid employee, who co-ordinates the Chicago office from which literature is ordered and a portion of the dues are sent. Apart from keeping this "clearing house" operating, the only other fees paid might go to an organizer for the duration of a specific mission. That's it.

Everything else that gets done in the union is voluntary. The reason Wobblies bother to organize is because they believe in doing what's right. If they are talking to you, it's because they want to make common cause with you, as opposed to enriching themselves or anyone else.

Promotes the concept of worker control. Suppose we never have labor trouble, and are busy doing social change work in other ways; what possible use would unionizing serve?

There is much to be said for inspiring others by the good example you set. The IWW has a rich heritage of anti-authoritarian organizing that needs to be promoted as a realistic model of non-hierarchical, cooperative and democratic resistance. Both the ecology and women's movements have legitimized and expanded our understanding that we don't need superstars and vanguard parties to do community organizing, but this has yet to be discovered by the labor movement. The IWW provides an eloquent reminder to the bosses of the "business unions" that our methods can also apply to the workplace.

The hardest battle is actually convincing our fellow workers that their "superiors", both corporate and union, are no more gifted than the combined good sense of their peers. This concept of workers being capable of administering their own affairs, has been buried for some three generations in North America. Most people who did speak of Worker Control were more interested in controlling the workers

usually through a Political Party with themselves as boss.

Others froze the class struggle into the theatrical conflict known as trade unionism where we wage-slaves are called on to strike and suffer for an endless parade of bread-and-butter issues, without the slightest chance of ending the cycle by taking over the "means of production". Even today, many union organizers see cooperatives not as workers "building the new society in the shell of the old", but as "scabs" who threaten to disrupt the ritualized conflict that pays their salary.

So without the concept of Worker Control, the world will indeed see the rise of one all-encompassing international union. This is because the global coordination of strikes, boycotts, and other sabotage is the only strategy able to fight corporations whose annual sales are increasingly greater than the Gross National Products of entire countries. But, unlike the One Big Union concept of the IWW, the tremendous power of this organization will be directed by a professional managerial class ... not by the workers.

The only person who can't join is the boss. As a homemaker, my job isn't industrial and I don't even get paid, so why talk to me about the Industrial Workers of the World?

As a homemaker, you belong to possible the largest single industrial workforce around. The IWW has a whole section of its Public Service department specifically intended for "all workers engaged in performing services in the home" (keep in mind that the special functions of these sections have become largely dormant for lack of members). In fact, capitalism is only able to function because it swindles people into believing that producing toaster ovens is somehow more important than bearing and raising healthy children. It does this by ranking one job over the other according to their salary; generally, this means that the parasites on top make top dollar, the "employed" workers get peanuts, and the "unemployed" workers get spit all.

To put this in a bigger way, if you live anywhere on this planet, you are a real or potential cog in maintaining the post-Industrial Revolution society that is close to ending all life on this little dirtball. That's how our "masters" view us; even if you're an Amazon Indian, plans have already included you as the cheap labour of the future in some so-called "development" scheme.

So it doesn't matter whether you are studying to enter the jobmarket, or have stopped being profitable (retired or "differently abled"), or are simply not given a wage for the work you do; you are all part of a working class that makes society run. You may never have been in a factory, worn overalls, or cursed; but you are still an industrial worker.

That being the case, the IWW is structured into different sections, called Industrial Unions, where similar trades are grouped together in the same way that capitalists build their empires. In this way, if gas station workers strike against Shell, they are backed up by the tanker drivers, refinery workers, the drillers, and the oilfield workers (though with our tiny membership, these are not presently operating as they once did). This is a better strategy than Trade Unions, in which workers at a construction site would be sliced-up by competing bureaucrats into separate unions for steelworkers, sheet metal workers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, teamsters, brick and glassworkers, etc. Every time one of these unions goes on strike, they must plead with the other competing unions not to be "union scabs" and weaken their protest by crossing picket lines to go to work. This is the difference between Industrial Unions and Trade Unions.

Every union drive starts with a few determined workers.

What if only a few of my co-workers are interested in unionizing?

Even in our most famous period, when just the rumour that we were in town would make wages rise, our union was very small. Our best fights were usually waged with only a fist-full of organizers, but those organizers had such tenacity and ingenuity that they succeeded where it would have taken a small army of organizers from other unions. One legend says that that is how we got the name "Wobbly"; we were named after a lumber saw which made cuts fully twice its actual thickness.

It's always amazing what one person can do, when they're willing to take risks.

Should you wish to be more active in attracting members, Wobblies have always found stickers with custom-made slogans and information to be a great tactic; they get co-workers debating without attracting notice to yourself (we call them silent agitators). Perhaps a leaflet handed to you by outside Wobblies (or a Wobbly choir singing labor songs?), might be appropriate. Whatever you think would "fan the flames of discontent" should be proposed to other Wobs as a possible action.

We may be revolutionary, but Politically Correct we ain't.

What sort of weird politics do I have to swallow if I join?

If you've read this far without blinking, the rest should be easy. Wobblies have to be in agreement with the constitution that deals with the practical side of how the union is to be run. The Preamble to this constitution is a six paragraph statement of intentions that has not much altered since 1905.

Its first line begins: "the working class and the employing class have nothing in common." This is often personalized by gentle folk who rightly point out that both boss and wage-slave eat, love, sleep and are in all ways equally human. To raise this question was, of course, why the phrase was written; people have got to understand that it is the ruling CLASS which must be destroyed, not particularly the individuals within that class however much we may loathe them. Merely changing the individuals within this class does not change the fundamental power imbalance. This may seem like an obvious point, but generation after generation of Marxist-Leninists tramped around messing up revolutions by confiscating power from the workers. If we are to learn from history, this is crucial to understanding, for instance, how the Russian revolution was hijacked by the Bolsheviks, or why, shortly thereafter, the Communist Party tried to smash the IWW.

The only other point in the Preamble that might raise an eyebrow is the call to "abolish the wage system". This merely indicates our rejection of an arbitrary reward system ruled by market demand and the whim and prejudice of the boss.

As a final note, the IWW has a long-standing policy aimed at saving political difference for political arenas and letting the union get on with its work with a minimum of squabbles. The resolution reads: "...the IWW refuses all alliances, direct and indirect, with existing political parties or antipolitical sects, and disclaims responsibility for any individual opinion or act which may be at variance with the purposes herein expressed." This position has been effective in keeping the union clear of the doctrinaire, but non-aligned members are encouraged to be wary.

Ted Dymont.

## Solidarity Forever